

Hafa Adai!

As Typhoon Mawar hit, twin meteorologists kept Guam informed. **PAGE 2**
Korean airlines launch rescue flights for stranded tourists. **PAGE 4**

\$1

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Trees stand stripped of leaves following Typhoon Mawar outside Hagatna, Guam, Thursday, May 25, 2023. AP

SCOPE OF DAMAGE EMERGES IN GUAM

Typhoon flips cars, cuts power

By GRACE GARCES BORDALLO and SARAH BRUMFIELD
ASSOCIATED PRESS

HAGATNA, Guam (AP)—Powerful Typhoon Mawar smashed the U.S. territory of Guam and continued lashing the Pacific island with high winds and heavy rain Thursday, knocking down trees, walls and power lines and creating a powerful storm surge that threatened to wash out low-lying areas.

'All clear' declared for entire NMI

'TOUCHBACK' COUNTDOWN
Days until
'touchback rule'
takes effect on
Sept. 30, 2023:
127

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Several hours after Typhoon Mawar barreled through the Rota channel on its way outside the Marianas region, Gov. Arnold I. Palacios finally gave the "all clear" signal yesterday for all three islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

After an initial assessment
See **ALL CLEAR** on Page 4

The typhoon, the strongest to hit the territory of roughly 150,000 people since 2002, briefly made landfall Wednesday night as a Category 4 storm at Andersen Air Force

See **TYPHOON** on Page 4

No PSS classes today; graduation schedules remain the same

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

All CNMI Public School Sys-

tem classes and Head Start/Early Head Start and Early Intervention Programs are canceled for today, Friday, May

26 as Typhoon Mawar moves away from the Marianas.

In a memorandum from
See **PSS** on Page 4

No injuries, but still no power on Rota

By MARK RABAGO and FERGIE DE LA TORRE
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR/REPORTER

Although power service has yet to be restored on Rota, water service is now back on the island, which was spared of any major injuries or casualties, according to Rota Mayor Aubry Hocog, who said the initial assessment

See **ROTA** on Page 4

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The patio roof of Pizzaria Bar & Grill in Songsong Village on Rota is partially collapsed in the aftermath of Typhoon Mawar last Wednesday night.



INSIDE



BUSINESS

The CNMI now has a chocolate souvenir it can call its own with Kensington's Chico de Marianas.

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NATION

The United States grew older and at the fastest rate of any decade from 2010 to 2020.

PAGE 14



LIFE & STYLE

Tina Turner, the singer with the chart-topping "What's Love Got to Do With It," has died at 83.

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Local

As Typhoon Mawar hit, these twin meteorologists kept Guam informed

By AUDREY McAVOY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

HONOLULU (AP)—As Typhoon Mawar aimed its fury at Guam, residents facing terrifying winds and crashing waves from the strongest typhoon to hit the U.S. Pacific territory in decades had identical twin meteorologists to keep them informed—and to provide the outside world with a

glimpse of the chaos unfolding on the remote island.

The National Weather Service's Guam office employs Landon Aydlett as its warning coordination meteorologist. His brother Brandon Aydlett is the science and operations officer.

Together, the 41-year-olds tag-teamed Facebook Live broadcasts watched by thousands as Typhoon Mawar

approached with maximum sustained winds of 140 mph (225 kph), wreaking havoc as residents lost power, internet and water service.

Their colorful descriptions of the Category 4 storm painted a picture as they both took turns describing trees snapped like toothpicks, thrashing winds, nearly 2 feet (0.6 meters) of torrential rain and "whiteout conditions" outside

the office where they holed up with other colleagues for nearly 48 hours.

"Reassure your children. It's going to be a little bit scary as we go later into the night," Brandon Aydlett said in a Facebook Live update as the island was in the throes of the typhoon on Wednesday. "You can hear the sounds: The winds are howling, things are breaking. Just be together, talk to each other and things will slow down toward midnight and continuing into Thursday morning."

Earlier, his brother explained to viewers of another live update that the weather was about to get worse.

"We're starting to hear the low rumbles in the building

here at the National Weather Service," Landon Aydlett said. "Our doors are rattling. We hear little whistles through the windows, little cracks in the doors. We're getting those effects here as we're nearing typhoon force conditions."

He told The Associated Press in a brief telephone interview Thursday morning local time that working with his brother is like working with his best friend. They never planned to work together, he said.

"But the jobs fell in our laps, and we followed our heart and our passion for the work," Aydlett said. "And somehow we both ended up in Guam."

The brothers are from Elizabeth City, North Caro-

lina, a small farming town in the Outer Banks about an hour south of Norfolk, Virginia. Brandon Aydlett came to Guam first, more than 13 years ago, and his brother arrived a half-year later.

The brothers like to go hiking and paddleboarding. Brandon Aydlett enjoys running. Landon Aydlett—who at Thursday's final briefing sported a necklace of small white shells gifted to him after a 2018 typhoon—prefers to lift weights. Last year they broke two Guinness world records by building the world's largest and tallest toy timber tower as part of a Habitat for Humanity fundraiser. The "Tower for Humanity" raised \$20,000 for the Guam chapter of the charity.

Landon Aydlett said he's heard about spouses working together in National Weather Service offices, but never about other twins.

Guam is an island of about 150,000 people about 3,900 miles (6,275 kilometers) west of Hawaii and 1,600 miles (2,600 kilometers) east of Manila, the capital of the Philippines.

The weather service office issues forecasts for Guam as well as several islands to the north—Saipan, Tinian and Rota—that are part of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, another U.S. territory. The Guam office also forecasts weather for the nearby independent Pacific island nations of the Marshall Islands, Micronesia and Palau.

On Thursday, in their final live update as the storm began to subside, they kept passing the informational baton back and forth. It would be their last update from Guam, Landon Aydlett said, after nearly 48 hours together in the forecasting office.



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Office resumptions, operation updates, etc.

Settlement Fund office resumes operation today

The Settlement Fund office will resume operations today, May 26, 2023, and will be available to assist members only by telephone, fax, or email between 8am and 5pm. The office was temporarily closed yesterday, May 25, 2023. Contact the Settlement Fund at (670) 322-3863; fax: (670) 664-8080; or email: info@nmisf.com (PR)

BOH Gualo Rai resumes normal operation

Starting today, May 26, Bank of Hawai'i's Gualo Rai Branch on Saipan will resume normal branch hours:

- Mondays through Fridays: 9am to 4pm
- Saturdays: 9am to 1pm
- Sundays: closed

The bank's Gualo Rai Branch reopened yesterday, Thursday, May 25, at 10am following Super Typhoon Mawar.

As previously announced, Bank of Hawai'i's operations on Guam (Hagatna and Harmon) remain temporarily closed until further notice. (PR)

Updates on NMI Judiciary facilities

In response to Typhoon Mawar, the CNMI Supreme Court ordered yesterday the closure of the Rota Centron Hustisia to the public until further notice.

The following Judiciary facilities were also closed to the public yesterday, May 25, 2023:

- Guma' Hustisia, Susupe, Saipan;
- Kotten Tinian, San Jose, Tinian;
- Law Revision Commission office, Susupe, Saipan; and
- Commonwealth Recorder's Office alternate site at Marianas Business Plaza, Susupe, Saipan. (PR)

Wind advisory until 6am today

A wind advisory remains in effect until 6am today, Friday on Saipan and Tinian. A wind advisory means that winds of 35 mph are expected.

Southeast winds of 20 to 30 mph, with gusts of up to 40 mph, are expected on Saipan and Tinian. Gusty winds could blow around unsecured objects. Tree limbs could be blown down and a few power outages may result.

The public is advised to use extra caution when driving, especially if operating a

high-profile vehicle. Secure outdoor objects. (PR)

Warning out vs sailing in small craft

A small craft advisory is now in effect until 6pm today, Fri-

day. Weather conditions will be hazardous to small craft. Southeast winds of 20 to 30 knots and gusts of up to 40

knots and seas 12 to 14 feet are expected on Saipan and Tinian coastal waters.

All inexperienced mariners,

especially those operating smaller vessels, are advised to avoid boating in hazardous conditions. (PR)

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Korean airlines launch rescue flights for stranded tourists

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
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REPORTER

The CNMI's Korean airline partners have launched rescue flights starting yesterday to bring home tourist who were left stranded on Saipan as a result of Typhoon Mawar.

The slow approach of Typhoon Mawar caused the CNMI's airline partners to cancel daily flights in an out of the CNMI in the last few days. Due to these cancellations, many tourists were left stranded on Saipan.

However, according to an update from the Commonwealth Ports Authority, Korean airline partners like

T'Way Air, Jeju Air, and Asiana Airlines have launched rescue flights for these tourists starting yesterday.

At around 10:45pm yesterday, T'way flew in one rescue flight from Incheon to Saipan.

Jeju, on the other hand, launched two rescue flights yesterday evening. The first rescue flight, which was also expected to bring passengers, was set to arrive at 10:40pm while the second was set to arrive shortly after at around 12:50pm.

Meanwhile, Asiana has scheduled two rescue flights for today. The first rescue flight is expected 2:40pm while the second flight, also expected

to bring in passengers, is set to arrive at around 4:30pm.

All three Korea-based airlines expect to resume regular flights today.

Meanwhile United Airlines has cancelled all flights to Saipan since last Wednesday until today. They have not reported any rescue flights or if there was a need for one as of press time.

During yesterday's press conference, Gov. Arnold I. Palacios briefly spoke about the stranded tourists and confirmed that CPA has informed the administration of the rescue flights.

"To me, it was probably a wild experience for our tourists. It's not every day that you experience a typhoon. It

TYPHOON

From Page 1

Base on the northern tip of the island, according to National Weather Service meteorologist Patrick Doll.

The storm strengthened to 150 mph (241 kph) winds the following morning, regaining its status as a super typhoon, according to the weather service. Mawar was forecast to intensify further.

As it churned slowly over the island, the typhoon flipped cars and ripped branches from trees. At what felt like its peak intensity Wednesday night, the winds screeched and howled like jets flying overhead and rainwater rushed into some homes.

Videos posted on social media showed fallen trees, an overturned pickup truck, solar panels flying through the air, parts of a hotel's exterior wall crumbling to the ground and exposing rebar, and storm surge and waves crashing through coastal reefs.

The early scope of the damage was difficult to ascertain, with power

and internet failures making communication with the far-flung island difficult. The governor and lieutenant governor were making their way after daylight arrived to assess the damage, weather service meteorologist Landon Aydlett.

"It looks like toothpicks," Aydlett said. "It looks like a scene from the movie 'Twister,' with things just thrashed apart. Lots of Guam is dealing with a major mess that's going to take weeks to clean up."

J. Asprer, a police officer in the Dededo precinct in northern Guam, said before dawn that he had not received any reports of injuries but several police cars and personal vehicles had been damaged by debris, and uprooted trees made some roads impassable. Most of the calls overnight came from worried people off-island who were unable to reach family members, Asprer said.

"We told them we'll have to wait until the storm clears up a bit," he said.

Ray Leon Guerrero, an assistant in the mayor's office in Barrigada, a village of about 9,000 people in central

Guam, stayed at the office overnight fielding calls from residents and heard objects slamming into the roof and outside walls constantly.

"Oh man. It was pretty noisy," he said.

The slow-moving storm continued to batter the island early Thursday with maximum sustained winds of 140 mph (225 kph), and it was expected to intensify through Friday, the weather service said.

In a sign of how much help Guam might need, the Navy ordered the USS Nimitz aircraft carrier strike group to head to the island to assist in the recovery effort, according to a U.S. official. The Nimitz, along with the USS Bunker Hill, a cruiser, and the USS Wayne E. Meyer, a destroyer, were south of Japan and expected to arrive in Guam in three or four days, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss ship movements not yet made public.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

POWER

From Page 1

in the aftermath of Typhoon Mawar showed that the island sustained only minor injuries to residents from the Category 4 typhoon.

"We are very blessed to report that there are no serious injuries or major damage to our island. During the preliminary assessment, we had some fallen trees and other debris that were blocking road access. We immediately cleared that to ensure that our emergency personnel would be able to transport any of our Rota residents to the hospital if need be," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

She added that the Rota Mayor's Office is now working with the Com-

monwealth Utilities Corp. on restoring power service.

"Access to water is available now. Also, CUC is offering up to 50 gallons of water for every family to utilize but has issued a boil water notice with it. The power division will be mobilized once the 'all clear' signal has been issued to focus on restoring power to the island," said Hocog.

Separately, Rep. Julie A. Ogo (Ind-Rota) said they did sustain some structural damage such as fallen power poles, and damaged outside kitchen/garages.

As of 4pm, 21 Rota residents are in designated shelters and are just awaiting the "all clear" signal to be issued to return home.

Department of Public Works per-

sonnel are also out clearing the secondary roads for residents to be able to move freely.

"The port of entry is our main priority but [the Commonwealth Ports Authority] is waiting for the signal so that authorized personnel will be allowed on site to assist with the debris removal. This way, we can anticipate the arrival of supplies and equipment needed that will be utilized towards our recovery efforts," said Hocog.

Hocog also thanked the administration of Gov. Arnold I. Palacios for their past and future support as Rota begins its recovery from Mawar.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

was also pretty safe as Saipan was spared and they got to spend an extra day on the island," he said.

Domestic flights

As of press time, Star Marianas has cancelled all inter-island flights and will remain canceled until further notice.

Airport updates

Commonwealth Port Authority executive director Christopher Tenorio has reported that CNMI airports are fully operational, with the exception of Rota's Benjamin Manglona Taisacan International Airport, which is only operational during daylight hours.

"CPA's day operations team is working diligently to address an ongoing lighting issue that affects operations during night-time conditions. Once this lighting issue is resolved, Benjamin Manglona Taisacan International Airport will be operational

on a full-time basis," said Tenorio.

According to him, the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport is fully operational and can accommodate any aircraft seeking to land. As of press time, there are no current issues or restrictions impacting its operational capabilities.

As for the Tinian International Airport, Tenorio said it is also fully operational and can accommodate any aircraft seeking to land. There are no current issues or restrictions impacting its operational capabilities.

As for the seaports, Tenorio said CPA is awaiting assessment from the U.S. Coast Guard to determine whether it is safe to lift the current port conditions.

"Once the assessment is complete and the Captain of the Port approves, the port conditions will be lifted, enabling normal operations at the seaports to recommence," he said.

IT&E statement on service interruption

We apologize for the inconvenience. We had a temporary power issue which has been resolved. We are monitoring the situation close-

ly. We do not expect any further service interruptions. Thank you for your patience and understanding. (*IT&E*)

ALL CLEAR

From Page 1

of the typhoon damage and with guidance from the National Weather Service in Guam, Palacios called off all tropical storm and typhoon conditions for Saipan, Tinian, and Rota and declared an "all clear" for all three islands, paving the way for recovery efforts to begin, especially with bringing needed equipment to Rota, which was most affected by the storm.

After a briefing yesterday by the National Weather Service at the CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management headquarters on Capital Hill, Palacios cancelled all conditions for Saipan, Tinian and Rota as of 5:30pm press time.

At around 5:30pm yesterday evening, only Saipan and Tinian had received an "all clear" declaration. Later, at around 8:20pm, Palacios officially issued an "all clear" for Rota.

Palacios disclosed in a separate press briefing yesterday that both Saipan and Tinian sustained no damage, aside from debris but those that have been reported were minor and have been cleared.

On Tinian, Palacios said the administration received a report that a power line was downed by the storm but it has since been fixed by the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. on island.

As for Rota, Palacios said because they bore the brunt of the storm among all three islands, they continue to do assessments and are expected to provide a report today. The consolidated report will provide the administration with a clear picture of what is needed to aid in Rota's recovery post-Typhoon Mawar.

"A consolidated team made up of government personnel will carefully go out and make sure that the roads are clear and to look at what aid is necessary as a result of Mawar," he said.

Palacios said that power remains down on Rota and will remain down until equipment and manpower needed can be transported

from Saipan to Rota.

"Photos provided to us showed a power pole had fallen across a road on Rota and those have to be cleared and addressed. Power remains down on Rota, but the power plant is OK. There was moisture in one of the engines, so they had to shut it down that's why power is still out. There are a lot of lines down and the distribution system needs to be fixed," he said.

"Pending availability of transport, we're working with the [Federal Emergency Management Agency] and the U.S. Department of Defense to transport equipment down to Rota for CUC, as well as generators for major infrastructures like the hospital. We're just waiting for clearance," he added.

Right now, Palacios said, it's just a matter of when the Department of Defense can deem Rota's ports safe for entry. Most of the equipment needed for Rota's recovery has already been pre-staged during the preparation phase.

"One of the key components in this is the airports. DOD needs to do a professional assessment of the runways to determine whether it can land one of their helicopters on Rota. They're going to be doing that assessment today so we can begin recovery for Rota," he said.

Overall, Palacios said the CNMI is fortunate because, although Typhoon Mawar wreaked havoc on Rota, there were no fatalities reported.

In addition, on the bright side, Palacios said his administration has learned from this storm and is looking at having more emergency equipment stationed on Rota in case of another disaster, given how isolated the island is and how tricky the Rota channel can be.

"We're very fortunate that there has been no fatalities. Obviously we're going to learn a lot from the Rota case, so we can be able to address those in the future. We know now that we need to station a lot of equipment on Rota in case of another storm because it is very isolated and the biggest challenge we've faced is how to transport the equipment needed for a storm to Rota," he said.

PSS

From Page 1

Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred B. Ada yesterday, he said they will be doing school site assessments for safety purposes.

As soon as Gov. Arnold I. Palacios issued an all-clear for Saipan and Tinian late afternoon yesterday, Ada said in an updated memorandum that all PSS Central and school offices on Saipan and Tinian will resume operations today, and non-190-day

contracted employees are expected to report for work.

The promotion and graduation schedules below remain the same from the last update.

■ Saturday, May 27, is Tinian Sr. High School graduation at 4pm.

■ Tuesday, May 30, at 9am is Francisco M. Sablan Middle School promotion; 4pm is Marianas High School graduation.

■ Wednesday, May 31, at 9am is ChaCha Ocean View Middle School promotion; at 4pm is Kagman High School graduation.

■ Thursday, June 1 at 9am is Tanapag Middle School promotion.

■ Friday, June 2, at 9am is Dr. Rita H. Inos Jr. High School promotion and at 4pm is Dr. Rita H. Inos Sr. High School graduation.

■ Monday, June 5, at 9am is Dan Dan Middle School promotion; 4pm is Da'Ok Academy graduation.

■ Tuesday, June 6 at 9am is the Hopwood Middle School promotion; 4pm is Saipan Southern High School graduation.

■ Wednesday, June 7 at 1pm is Tinian Sr. High School graduation.

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BUSINESS HOURS:
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8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.



Yumul: DPW is consulting OAG on IPI's tower crane

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Department of Public Works Secretary Ray N. Yumul disclosed Wednesday that he is consulting with the Office of the Attorney General on how to resolve the issue about Imperial Pacific International



Yumul

meet yesterday, Thursday,

(CNMI) LLC's tower crane atop the unfinished casino resort project in Garapan.

Yumul was scheduled to

with the Attorney General to go over DPW's next steps in dealing with IPI's tower crane number 5.

The DPW secretary earlier disclosed that tower crane number 5, which looms over Hibiscus Street between IPI casino/resort building and Joten Hafa Adai, poses an im-

minent threat to public safety since it has not been used since December 2020. DPW has since closed Hibiscus Street starting Tuesday at 4pm for safety reasons.

On news report that IPI sent experts Saturday to do maintenance on the crane to make it safe even with the typhoon,

Yumul said he can't comment on that without first having his staff inspect the crane.

Yumul said if IPI hired Jess Aquininoc of the DR Safety to do maintenance on the crane over the weekend, he would need a document from the company attesting to that.

FEMA backs local typhoon response efforts

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



FEMA

Following President Joe Biden's pre-landfall emergency declaration last Tuesday, Federal Emergency Management Agency personnel have begun carrying out requests made by the CNMI government relating to Typhoon Mawar response efforts.

In an interview with Brady Penn, external affairs officer with FEMA, he said FEMA personnel are on island now to support the CNMI government in preparedness efforts.

"We're here supporting our territorial partners and work-

ing with local governments to ensure that we're well prepared ahead of the storm, which is expected in the next 36 hours," he said.

Thanks to Biden's pre-landfall emergency declaration, Penn said FEMA has begun coordinating with federal partners like the Department of Defense to fulfill the CNMI's needs as it weathers out the storm.

"President Biden signed a pre-landfall emergency declaration this week, which allows FEMA to move people and commodities...to support the territorial governments of the Marianas with any unmet needs, should they arise during the storm. That includes things like food, water, tents, generators, as well as personnel like the Incident Management Assistance Team," he said.

Penn said that about 100 federal personnel have been split between Guam and the CNMI in preparation for Typhoon Mawar.

"Between Guam and the CNMI, nearly 100 personnel are on the ground between FEMA and other federal partners. We have folks stationed on different islands so we can respond as quickly as possible. We want to be prepared. We also have the DOD contingent. Part of FEMA's role is to coordinate those federal organizations, so we have a coordinated response led by the local governments," he said.

"So we're here supporting already. Most of our team is on Guam supporting the government there. So we've got people on the ground. We've got commodities in place, and the distribution center in Guam has been activated so that we can get necessary commodities to the places that need it the most [like Rota]," Penn added.

In addition, Penn stated that FEMA has pre-staged generators for Rota and will be sending them over to Rota once it is safe to do so. This was one of the CNMI's top concerns: its ability to mobilize generators large enough to power the Rota Health Center.

"FEMA has generators pre-staged and they are ready to be deployed as soon as it's safe to do so following the storm. As soon as we are able to assess the needs, regardless of the island, we will be able to get those generators and anything else we're called upon to provide, we will be able to provide. This pre-landfall emergency declaration allows us to deploy and support," he said.

Ultimately, Penn said FEMA is here to back the CNMI government in its response efforts.

"Disaster response is done best when its locally led and federally supported. We're here to merely support the local governments. The governor requested this emergency declaration and that's why we're here. The local governments needed support, so we're just here to provide that. It's a team effort that is locally led and territorially directed. We're going to be seeing that through the recovery phase and we'll see where we are in the next couple of days," Penn stated.



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY CNMI GOVERNMENT

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950 | Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
Website: www.cnmiports.com



NOTICE TO BIDDERS

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) is inviting qualified contractors to submit their qualifications and bid proposals and their qualifications for the **FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT PASSENGER LOADING BRIDGES 1, 4 AND 5 REPLACEMENT, AIP NO. 3-69-0002-100, SAIPAN, COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS.**

Bidders are to submit one original and two copies of their bid which shall be sealed in an envelope and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "Passenger Loading Bridges 1, 4 and 5 Replacement for the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Saipan, CNMI, AIP No. 3-69-0002-100" and submitted no later than **2:00 p.m., FRIDAY, JUNE 23, 2023**, to the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the Arrival Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, at which time and place the sealed proposals will be publicly opened and read.

The Project, in general, consists of, but is not limited to replacement of three existing passenger boarding bridges at Gates 1, 4, and 5 with new apron-drive bridges at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, including all associated work in accordance with the Project Drawings and Specifications.

The Project is being financed by funds from the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and the Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA). The Contract provides that the Contractor shall invoice for labor and materials for passenger boarding bridge replacement at Gate 1 separately from the invoice for passenger boarding bridges replacement at Gates 4 and 5 (which may be invoiced together).

The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within one hundred twenty (120) calendar days from the receipt of bids. CPA reserves the right to hold such bids in effect for one hundred eighty (180) calendar days from the date of bid opening.

A DVD containing the Contract Documents including plans, specifications and the bid schedule, may be obtained at the CPA Accounting Office, 2nd floor of the Departure Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, upon the payment of **TWO HUNDRED FIFTY U.S. DOLLARS (\$250.00)** for each set of bid documents in electronic format (DVD). The payment is nonrefundable unless bids are cancelled. Payment shall be made in cash, credit card, cashier's check or U.S. postal money order payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority. Bidders should notify Ms. Wendi L. Prater, Executive Assistant/Project Manager at wprater@cnmiports.com immediately if there are issues retrieving the files on the DVD. Bidders should also verify all information using the specification table of contents and the index of drawings.

A pre-bid conference will be held at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, at **10:00 a.m., FRIDAY, JUNE 9, 2023**, at the Saipan Airport Conference Room, 2nd floor of the Departure Terminal, to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. Attendance is not mandatory. A site visit will follow the pre-bid conference. For site visits after the pre-bid conference, bidders are to coordinate with Ms. Wendi Prater, CPA's Executive Assistant/Project Manager at email address wprater@cnmiports.com or telephone number (670) 237-6500.

Questions should be submitted in writing to the CPA Executive Director's Office, 2nd floor of the Arrival Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or emailed to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, Executive Assistant/Project Manager at wprater@cnmiports.com, at least ten (10) days prior to the bid opening date; with the exception of bid submission extension requests which have no deadline. Responses to all questions and requests for information will be provided to all bidders who purchased the bid documents and attended the pre-bid conference.

Bidders shall use the bid schedule form furnished on the DVD. Each bidder should also supply all supplemental information required in the specifications.

The contract period for construction of the project in its entirety shall be **FIVE HUNDRED TWENTY-SIX (526)** calendar days for all three bridges. Liquidated damages in the amount of **ONE THOUSAND (\$1,000.00) U.S. Dollars** shall be assessed the Contractor for each calendar day that the completion of the Project is delayed beyond the contract completion date without approved excuse.

The apparent low bidder will be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are "responsive and responsible." This review will include, but is not necessarily limited to previous project experience, financial capabilities, quality of equipment and personnel, and bonding and insurance. If the apparent low bidder is found not to be "responsive or responsible", their bid will be rejected and the next lowest bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; (c) any calculation error made in the bid schedule or mis-enter of the quantity of line item; or (d) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

Each bid shall be accompanied by either a bid bond by a U.S. Treasury listed or CPA approved surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the bid price. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

All mechanics and laborers for this procurement project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate established by the CNMI or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. A copy of the Department of the Federal Labor Wage Rate Determination is included in Section GP 70-28 of the specifications. The bidder shall take into account minimum wage increases that may be imposed in the CNMI over the life of the Contract and include associated costs in the bid proposal. The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the specifications.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority, in accordance with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 252, 42 USC §§ 2000d to 2000d-4) and the Regulations, hereby notifies all bidders or offerors that it will affirmatively ensure that any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, disadvantaged business enterprises will be afforded full and fair opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award.

The United States Secretary of Transportation has granted the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands an exemption from the requirements of the Department of Transportation's Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) regulation, which later became the Department of Transportation's Disadvantaged Business Enterprise program, as it relates to FAA grant programs. The Secretary of Transportation has not determined that a portion of those requirements should be reinstated.

By submitting a bid/proposal under this solicitation, the bidder or offeror certifies that neither it nor its principals are presently debarred or suspended by any Federal department or agency from participation in this transaction.

In addition to the above, all bidders shall comply with all other Federal requirements under this procurement, including but not limited to Buy American Preference, Foreign Trade Restriction, Davis Bacon, Veteran's Preference, Affirmative Action and Government wide Debarment and Suspension and Governmentwide Requirements for Drug-free Workplace. Further details on all Federal requirements are provided in the specifications.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: May 16, 2023



PROCUREMENT SERVICES CNMI GOVERNMENT



INVITATION TO BID ITB NO.: ITB23-DPL/RT-42300044

SUBMISSION DATE: JUNE 12, 2023 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"DPL'S Rota District Office Space Rental"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED ON THE MUNIS VENDOR SELF SERVICE PORTAL (<https://selfservice.dof.gov.mp/vss/>) OR AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT HORIGUCHI BLDG, GROUND FLOOR, 123 KOPPA DI ORU & BEACH ROAD, GARAPAN, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT

/s/ TERESITA A. SANTOS
DPL SECRETARY

/s/ BRIEN S. NICHOLAS JR.
ACTING DIRECTOR, P.S.

2 from the CNMI land on Utah Tech U’s Dean's List

ST. GEORGE, Utah—Two students from Saipan have been named to the Utah Tech University’s Dean's List for the spring 2023 semester.

The two Saipan-born students are Merari Aniga and Rovin Bacani. The two join nearly 12% of Utah Tech University students who earned

Dean's List recognition for the spring 2023 semester.

Specifically, 1,240 students were included on the Dean's List. Inclusion indicates students' strong commitment to their academic pursuits, as they must achieve a GPA of 3.5 to 3.89 for the Dean's List. Students

are also required to complete a minimum of 15 credits.

Utah Tech University is an open-enrollment teaching institution that offers more than 250 academic programs at one of the lowest tuition costs in the Western United States. It is located in Southern Utah. *(PR)*

AJ Hudkins of Saipan named to Harding University Dean's List

SEARCY, AR—Andrew Hudkins of Saipan was one of more than 600 students who received diplomas and were recognized as Harding University graduates for spring 2023 during a commencement ceremony on May 6, 2023.

Hudkins received a Master of Science in information systems.

Graduates included students from the College of Allied Health, College of Arts and Humanities, College of Bible and

Ministry, Paul R. Carter College of Business Administration, Cannon-Clary College of Education, Carr College of Nursing, College of Pharmacy, College of Sciences, and University College. *(PR)*

Andrew Hudkins of Saipan graduates from Harding U

SEARCY, AR—AJ Hudkins, a senior studying information systems at Harding University, was among more than 1,100 students included on the Dean's List for grades achieved during the spring 2023 semester.

The dean's list is published

each semester by university provost Dr. Marty Spears, honoring those who have achieved high scholarship. To be eligible, a student must be carrying 12 or more hours with a 3.65 or higher grade-point average and no incompletes.

Harding University is a private Christian, liberal arts university in Searcy, Arkansas. It is the largest private university in the state. Harding's student body represents students from across the U.S. and more than 50 nations and territories. The university offers more than 110 undergraduate majors; 14 pre-professional programs; *(PR)*

Joey P. San Nicolas

Attorney-at-Law

San Nicolas Law Office, LLC

2nd Floor, Island Commercial Center, Rm. 203

Chalan Pale Arnold, Gualo Rai

P.O. Box 10,001 PMB 602, Saipan, MP 96950

Tel: (670) 234-7659 | Fax: (670) 234-9218

Email: jpsn@sannicolaw.net

Attorney for Petitioner

Salomae H. Calvo

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE

NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE

MATTER OF

THE ESTATE OF:

VINCENT M.

CALVO,

Decedent.

Civil Action

No.: 23-0069-CV

NOTICE OF HEARING

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TO: ALL HEIRS, DEVISEES, LEGATEES AND

CREDITORS OF: VINCENT M. CALVO

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the petition of Salomae H. Calvo for the issuance of letters of administration will be heard before the Honorable Joseph N. Camacho, Associate Judge, on the 1st day of June, 2023, at 10:00 a.m./p.m., at Room 220A, Superior Court of the Northern Mariana Islands, Susupe Village, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All persons interested are hereby notified to appear at the hearing and show cause, if any, why the order should not be made.

For further particulars, please refer to the Petition on file herein, or contact counsel for Petitioner, Joey P. San Nicolas, P.O. Box 10,001 PMB 602, Saipan, MP 96950; telephone (670) 234-7659 and email jpsn@sannicolaw.net.

Pursuant to Rule 11, NMI R. Prob. P., notice is hereby given to all creditors of the decedent, VINCENT M. CALVO, of his estate, that they must file their claims with the Clerk of the Superior Court, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, within sixty (60) days of the first publication of this Notice, or the claims will be forever barred.

Dated this 1st day of May, 2023.

Hon. Joseph N. Camacho

Associate Judge

Joey P. San Nicolas

Attorney-at-Law

San Nicolas Law Office, LLC

2nd Floor, Island Commercial Center, Rm. 203

Chalan Pale Arnold, Gualo Rai

P.O. Box 10,001 PMB 602, Saipan, MP 96950

Tel: (670) 234-7659 | Fax: (670) 234-9218

Email: jpsn@sannicolaw.net

Attorney for Petitioner

Primitiva B. Camacho

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE

NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE

MATTER OF

THE ESTATE OF:

DIONICIO M.

BABAUTA,

Decedent.

Civil Action

No.: 23-0065-CV

NOTICE OF HEARING

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TO: ALL HEIRS, DEVISEES, LEGATEES AND

CREDITORS OF: DIONICIO M. BABAUTA

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the petition of Primitiva B. Camacho for the issuance of letters of administration will be heard before the Honorable Joseph N. Camacho, Associate Judge, on the 1st day of June, 2023, at 10:00 a.m./p.m., at Room 220A, Superior Court of the Northern Mariana Islands, Susupe Village, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All persons interested are hereby notified to appear at the hearing and show cause, if any, why the order should not be made.

For further particulars, please refer to the Petition on file herein, or contact counsel for Petitioner, Joey P. San Nicolas, P.O. Box 10,001 PMB 602, Saipan, MP 96950; telephone (670) 234-7659 and email jpsn@sannicolaw.net.

Pursuant to Rule 11, NMI R. Prob. P., notice is hereby given to all creditors of the decedent, DIONICIO M. BABAUTA, of his estate, that they must file their claims with the Clerk of the Superior Court, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, within sixty (60) days of the first publication of this Notice, or the claims will be forever barred.

Dated this 24th day of April, 2023.

Hon. Joseph N. Camacho

Associate Judge

Joey P. San Nicolas

Attorney-at-Law

San Nicolas Law Office, LLC

2nd Floor, Island Commercial Center, Rm. 203

Chalan Pale Arnold, Gualo Rai

P.O. Box 10,001 PMB 602, Saipan, MP 96950

Tel: (670) 234-7659 | Fax: (670) 234-9218

Email: jpsn@sannicolaw.net

Attorney for Administrator

Jude Untalan Hofschneider

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE

NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE

MATTER

OF THE

ESTATE OF:

HERMAN

LAWRENCE

UNTALAN

HOFSCHEIDER,

Decedent.

Civil Action

No.: 22-0241-CV

ORDER RESETTING

HEARING

This matter came up for a hearing on April 27, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. on the Administrator's Petition for Final Distribution. Administrator Jude U. Hofschneider was present with his counsel, Joey P. San Nicolas, Esq.

Counsel requested to continue the hearing as Administrator intended to amend the Inventory of Estate. The Court granted the request.

Accordingly, the hearing on Administrator's Petition for Final Distribution is hereby reset for Thursday, June 01, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. Counsel shall publish the notice of hearing pursuant to the Rules of Probate Procedure.

ORDERED this ____ day of May, 2023.

Hon. Joseph N. Camacho

Associate Judge

PUTI'ON TWIN HULL NOTICE OF AUCTION/BIDDING

MINIMUM BID: \$25,000.00

Year: 1984; Official No. 677731; Call Sign: WCZ5662; Service: Passenger
Hull Material: Wood; Horsepower: 530; Propulsion: Diesel
Gross Tonnage: 99 GRT; Net Tonnage: 85 NRT; Length: 83.6; Breadth: 30.0; Depth: 11.0

For more information

Pursuant to the Stipulated Judgment in *Commonwealth Ports Authority v. Saipan Sea Ventures, Inc.*, Civ. No. 18-0498, notice is given of the auction of the vessel owned by Saipan Sea Ventures, Inc., to be sold at auction by the Commonwealth Ports Authority. Risk of loss remains with Saipan Sea Ventures, Inc. until the winning bidder's bid is approved by the Commonwealth Superior Court after which time the winning bidder shall assume ownership and responsibility for the vessel. By submitting a bid and if accepted, the winning bidder agrees to accept full risk and responsibility of the vessel once approved by the Commonwealth Superior Court, including compliance with CNMI and Federal/USCG laws and regulations.

Please contact Commonwealth Ports Authority counsel, Robert T. Torres at (670) 234-7859/234-5750, Email: robert.torres@rttlaw-group.com. **Minimum bid for the Puti'on Twin Hull is \$25,000.00.** Any bid(s) less than the minimum bid will be rejected. Bid submissions will be closed at 4:30 pm on **June 22, 2023**. Bid(s) opening shall be at 4:30 p.m. on **June 23, 2023**. The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any and all offer(s). A "Puti'on Twin Hull" bid form can be obtained from the Commonwealth Ports Authority, through its Counsel at Robert T. Torres Law Office, Chalan Kiya P.O. Box 500730 CK Saipan, MP 96950.

Bid Instructions

- This is a private auction/bidding on behalf of the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The bidding is conducted through the Law Office of Robert T. Torres using a written/sealed bid process. However, the Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any and all offers including any offer not determined to be commercially reasonable. Bids may be sealed and submitted to the Law Office of Robert T. Torres in Chalan Kiya, Saipan with a copy valid Identification Card or Passport.
- The Puti'on Twin Hull is offered for bid and sale and without any warranty or guarantee as to fitness for use and each bidder is on notice to research this specialized and particular unit as a twin hull motor craft and the conditions in which it may be used in the CNMI or in other locations.
- If a bid is accepted, the winning bidder shall tender the full amount upon notice and shall be responsible for the removal of the vessel within three (3) working days of court approval. Otherwise, the next highest bidder shall be considered.
- A winning bid shall be paid by Cash or Cashier's Check within three (3) working days of notice to the winning bidder. Personal checks/company checks are not accepted. The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to cancel the bid and resell/re-auction the unit.
- Inspection: Any person wishing to inspect the Puti'on Twin Hull may contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres to request for inspection at least two (2) days prior to inspection.
- All bids are final.

Department of Finance

Division of Procurement Services

P.O. Box 10008 C.K. Saipan, MP 96950

Tel: (670) 664-1500 • Fax: (670) 664-1515

NOTICE

OFFICE CLOSURE

This is to inform the general public and vendors that the Department of Finance, **Division of Procurement Services** located at the Horiguchi Building will be closed on **May 30 – 31, 2023** due to relocation to Capitol Hill, DCCA – Arts Council Office.

We will resume normal operations on **June 01, 2023** at the DCCA – Arts Council Office in Capitol Hill Building #12552.

Your cooperation and understanding is greatly appreciated.

/s/ Brien S. Nicholas, Jr.

Acting Director, Procurement Services

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION FOR BID

PROJECT NO. CPA-IFB-003-23

SUBMISSION DATE: MAY 26, 2023: 2:00 P.M.

“SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF NINETEEN (19) BRAND NEW UNITS OF 125# WHEELED FIRE EXTINGUISHERS”

THE BID PACKAGE IS AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP BEGINNING APRIL 26, 2023 AT THE ACCOUNTING DEPARTMENT, COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY, 2ND FLOOR, DEPARTURE BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT UPON PAYMENT OF AN ADMINISTRATIVE FEE OF \$100. PAYMENT SHALL BE MADE IN CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK, CREDIT CARD, OR U.S. POSTAL MONEY ORDER. ALL APPLICANTS SHALL PAY THE \$100.00 TO RECEIVE A COPY OF THE BID.

BIDDERS ARE TO SUBMIT ONE (1) ORIGINAL AND TWO (2) COPIES IN A SEALED ENVELOPE AND MARKED “SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF NINETEEN (19) BRAND NEW UNITS OF 125# WHEELED FIRE EXTINGUISHERS (IFB-003-23)” TO THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, 2ND FLOOR, ARRIVAL BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON OR BEFORE 2:00 P.M., MAY 26, 2023. BIDDERS SHALL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATIONS ALL CHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROCUREMENT BEFORE FINALIZING ITS BID PRICE.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION §40-50-1020 AND 1025 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CPA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF CPA.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO

Date: _____

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

MAIN OFFICE: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND FLOOR ARRIVAL BLDG.

PO BOX 501055-SAIPAN-MP-96950

PHONE: (1-670) 237-5500/1 • FAX: (1-670) 234-5962

E-MAIL ADDRESS: CPA.ADMIN@PTICOM.COM • WEBSITE: HTTPS://WWW.CNMI-PORTS.COM

AMENDED

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport

“Retail Concession”

CPA-RFP-005-23

for:

CPA Concession No. RCA-2022-01

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (“CPA” or “Authority”) is soliciting proposals for the award of one (1) concession granting the privilege to provide retail services to the traveling public at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport (“Retail Concession”). The successful proposer will be expected to provide retail services in accordance with its concession and concession agreement at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport for a period of Three (3) years upon entering into a concession agreement with the Authority.

The date of issuance of CPA-RFP-005-23 is **April 20, 2023**, and it can be obtained at the issuing office: CPA Administration Office, Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, Second floor of Arrival terminal at the Saipan International Airport or at the administration office at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport.

Proposals must be addressed to Commonwealth Ports Authority, Attn: Retail Concessions Evaluation Committee, CPA Administration Office, Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950; and submitted to and received by the CPA Administration Office (second floor of arrival terminal at the Saipan International Airport) **by or before 12:00 p.m. (noon) on May 26, 2023**, at which time the proposal period shall expire. Proposals must be accompanied with a non-refundable administrative fee of \$50.00. Payment shall be made in cash, credit card, or cashier's check payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority to defray the costs associated with handling and considering the proposal. Proposals are not required to include a prepaid minimum concession fee.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to cancel this RFP and to reject any and all proposals in accordance with its Concession Regulations (NMIAC Chapter 40-70).

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO

Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLON
Purchasing Administrator

DAY AFTER TYPHOON MAWAR HIT GUAM

‘What used to be a jungle now looks like toothpicks’

By GRACE GARCES BORDALLO and
JENNIFER SINCO KELLEHER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

HAGATNA, Guam (AP)—Guam residents and officials emerged from homes and shelters Thursday to survey the damage done to the U.S. Pacific territory after a long night of hunkering down as Typhoon Mawar’s howling winds shredded trees, flipped vehicles and knocked out utilities.

The central and northern parts of the island received more than 2 feet (60 centimeters) of rain as the eyewall passed, and most of Guam received about a foot of rain during the storm, said Brandon Aydtlett, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service. The island’s international airport flooded, and the swirling storm churned up a storm surge and waves that crashed through coastal reefs.

“We are waking up to a rather disturbing scene out there across Guam. We’re looking out our door and what used to be a jungle looks like toothpicks—it looks like a scene from the movie ‘Twister,’ with trees just thrashed apart,” said Landon Aydtlett, his twin brother and fellow NWS meteorologist.

“Most of Guam is dealing with a major mess that’s gonna take weeks to clean up,” he added.

The strongest typhoon to hit the territory of roughly 150,000 people since 2002, Mawar briefly made landfall around 9 p.m. local time Wednesday night as a Category 4 storm at Andersen Air Force Base on the northern tip of the island, weather service officials said.

“It was on land for about 30 to 35 minutes before it moved back offshore,” said Patrick Doll, another NWS meteorologist.

As it crept slowly over the island, the typhoon sent solar panels flying and crumbled part of a hotel’s exterior wall to the ground, according to videos posted on social media. At what felt like its peak intensity, the winds screeched and howled like jets, and water swamped some homes.

Leah del Mundo spent the night with her family in their concrete home in Chalan Pago, in central Guam. She told The Associated Press they tried to sleep but were awakened “by violent shaking of the typhoon shutters and the whistling strong winds.”

“It’s not our first rodeo,” she said via text message. “We’ve been through worse. But we brace ourselves for the cleanup, repairs, restoration afterwards.”

Buildings made of concrete in storm-prone Guam seemed to fare well. “If your home is not made of concrete, your life and property are in peril with typhoons like these,” del Mundo said.

In Tumon, on Guam’s northeastern shore, winds tore a granite countertop from a ho-

tel’s outdoor bar and tossed it 4 feet (about a meter) in the air. Guests scrambled to stack chairs to brace the doors, and windows buckled and creaked.

“It was like a freight train going on outside,” said Thomas Wooley, who recounted how wind and rain pushed through the aluminum shutters of his family’s concrete home overlooking Tumon Bay. When day broke, he found their outdoor china cabinet toppled and its contents shattered on the ground. A chainsaw-wielding cousin helped clear downed branches.

“We’ve got tons of work to do,” Wooley said. “It’s going to take a few days to clean it up.”

The scope of the damage was difficult to ascertain early on, with power and internet failures making communication with the far-flung island difficult.

Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero and Lt. Gov. Josh Tenorio were assessing the situation after the island “received the full brunt of the typhoon overnight,” emergency management officials said in a statement. They planned a driving tour to look for any major damage or blocked roadways.

J. Asprer, a police officer in the Dededo precinct in northern Guam, said before dawn that he had not received any reports of injuries but several police cars and personal vehicles had been damaged by debris and uprooted trees made some roads impassable. Most of the calls overnight came from worried people off-island who were unable to reach family members.

“We told them we’ll have to wait until the storm clears up a bit,” he said.

Ray Leon Guerrero, mayoral office assistant in Barrigada who is not related to the governor, said a village of about 9,000 people in central Guam, stayed at the office overnight and heard objects slamming into the roof and outside walls constantly.

“Oh man. It was pretty noisy,” he said.

Guam’s weather service office in Tiyan said it would shut down operations in the morning for workers to get home to families and assess damage at their homes. Counterparts in the Honolulu office took over their duties.

In a sign of how much help Guam might need, the Navy ordered the USS Nimitz aircraft carrier strike group to head to the island to assist in the recovery effort, according to a U.S. official. The Nimitz, along with the USS Bunker Hill, a cruiser, and the USS Wayne E. Meyer, a destroyer, were south of Japan and expected to arrive in Guam in three or four days, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss ship movements not yet made public.

Guam is about 3,800 miles (6,115 kilometers) west of Hawaii and 1,600 miles (1,575 kilometers) east of the Manila, the capital of the Philippines.

By early Thursday, Mawar was centered 75 miles (121 kilometers) northwest of Guam and 85 miles (137 kilometers) west of Rota, Guam’s neighbor to the north, moving west-northwest at 8 mph (13 kph).

Power was also knocked out for all of Rota, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. said late Wednesday. The island has about 2,500 residents, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

The storm strengthened to 150 mph (241 kph) winds Thursday to regain its status as a super typhoon, according to the weather service. Mawar, a Malaysian word that means “rose,” was forecast to intensify further.

After moving away from Guam, the storm is expected to track generally northwest over a large, empty expanse of ocean for days, and it could threaten Taiwan next week.



1 In this photo provided by the U.S. Coast Guard, downed tree branches litter a neighborhood in Yona, Guam, Thursday, May 25, 2023, after Typhoon Mawar passed over the island. **2** In this photo provided by the U.S. Coast Guard, downed tree branches litter a neighborhood in Yona, Guam, Thursday, May 25, 2023, after Typhoon Mawar passed over the island. **3** Trees lay on their sides following Typhoon Mawar outside Hagatna, Guam, Thursday, May 25, 2023. **4** The Laelae River in Umatac, Guam, becomes swollen with the addition of rain runoff resulting from increased shower activity as Typhoon Mawar approaches the region on May 23, 2023. (AP)

Opinion

Hafa Adair

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

The Arab world's conspiracy of dictators helps mask egregious rights abuses

What happens way over in the Arab world almost always has an impact here in tangible ways, whether it's Syrian refugees amassing at the border or setting up residence in St. Louis, or Saudi Arabia teaming with Russia to make global oil prices skyrocket. A lot of readers might have ignored last week's Arab League summit, but it's exactly in that arena where the region's future course is being set. The summit was particularly noteworthy, and not in a good way, for the way the Arab world's most notorious human rights abusers welcomed fellow abuser Syria back into the fold.

The summit offered no heady commitments to improve human rights. Instead, leaders kissed and forgave mass-murdering Syrian dictator Bashar al-Assad, deliberately ignoring the blood on his hands.

That's because the most prominent Arab leaders in the room have their own egregious abuses to hide. Having Assad in the room provided a useful contrast for other Arab dictators to show the world how they're really not so bad after all. Saudi Arabia is particularly desperate to exploit that contrast, still having failed to fully account for the 2018 murder and dismemberment of Washington Post opinion writer Jamal Khashoggi. His death sentence was for the crime of publicly criticizing Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman.

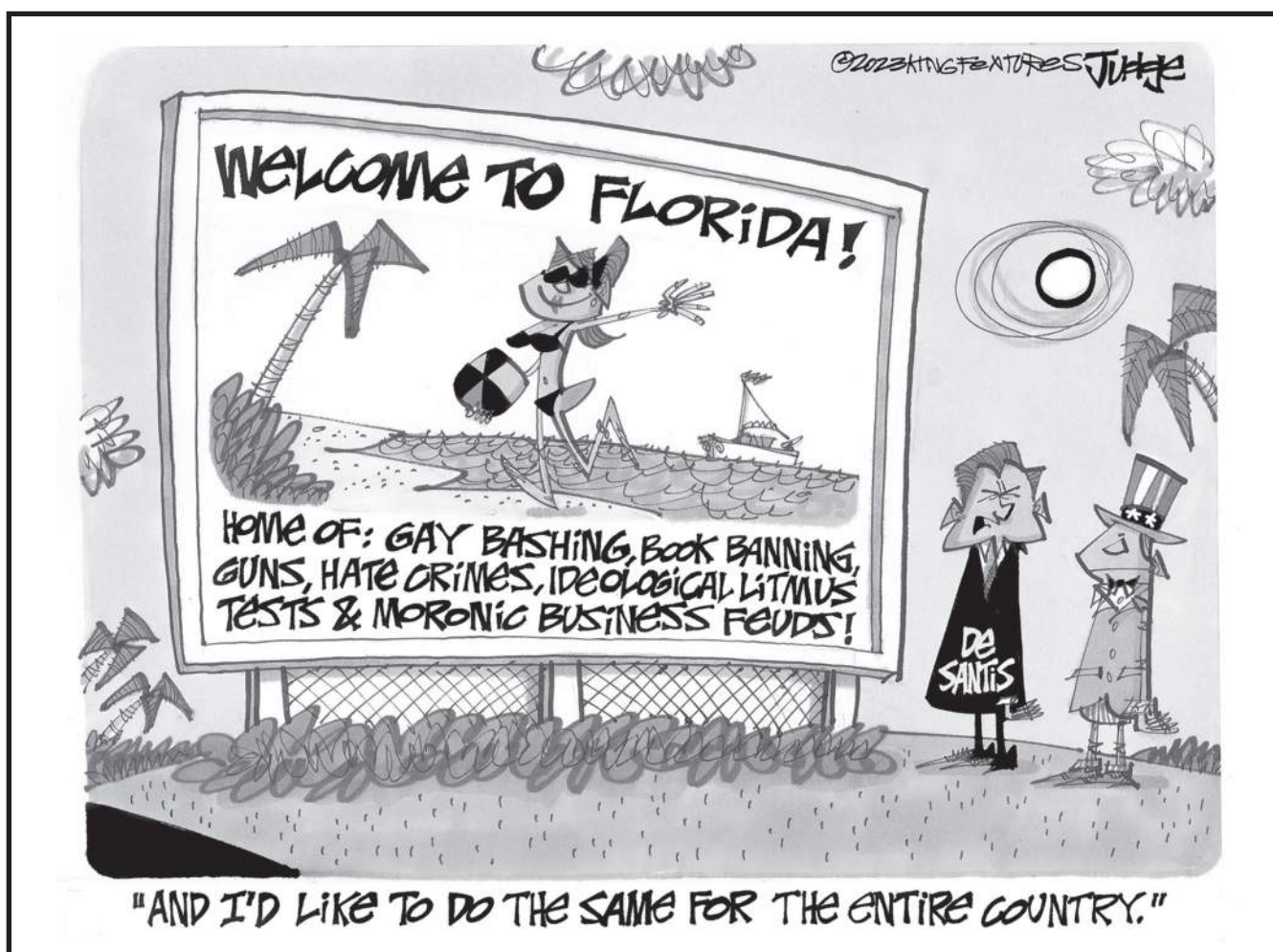
The Saudis are doing everything in their power to provide distractions from this murder, which U.S. intelligence says was ordered by the crown prince. They tried "sports-washing," by sponsoring international sporting events and funding a break-away professional golf tour, the LIV, to compete against the PGA, paying tens of millions of dollars to bribe major golfers into joining. At last week's summit, they even tried Ukraine-washing by inviting President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to attend.

Also welcoming Syria back is Egypt, whose military overthrew a democratically elected leader and threw thousands of pro-democracy activists into jail, where they were tortured and many were executed following the 2011 Arab Spring uprising. Journalists are among those arrested for merely reporting the facts of government oppression. Amnesty International reported in 2022 that "security forces arbitrarily arrested at least 11 journalists for their work or critical views. At least 26 journalists remained arbitrarily detained following convictions or pending investigations into accusations of 'spreading false news,' 'misusing social media' and/or 'terrorism.'"

Bad as all this might seem, it pales in comparison to Assad's deployment of chemical weapons against his own people along with mass arrests, torture and disappearances. He learned at the feet of the master: His father, Hafez al-Assad, reportedly massacred more than 10,000 people in the city of Hama during a 1982 siege.

What a sad statement on how far the Arab world has retreated from the inspirational days of the Arab Spring uprisings 12 years ago. It's not that the pro-democracy, pro-rights movement has fizzled. Rather, it's been clubbed to death by a conspiracy of dictators.

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Want to land at the top of future employers' hiring lists? Start learning Spanish

The recent spike in border crossings and the expiration of the emergency policy Title 42 have once again sparked discussions about immigration. These talks often center on political, economic and humanitarian issues, but one topic tends to receive less attention: the linguistic effect.

The U.S. currently has the world's fourth-largest population of native Spanish speakers, with nearly 42 million people speaking the language at home. By 2060, it will probably have the second largest, behind only Mexico. This language shift stems from a projected 3% increase in the number of foreign-born people in the United States over the next few decades, which translates to roughly 21 million more people, most of whom will be Spanish speakers. If you've been on the fence about learning Spanish, now is the time to start.

The proliferation of Spanish in the U.S. has been evident for some years in the workforce. The number of job postings aimed at Spanish-English bilinguals more than doubled between 2010 and 2015. The need for bilingualism has been particularly apparent in healthcare. In 2015, nearly one-fourth of the health insurer Humana's job postings targeted bilingual employees. Forty percent of the company's job postings for registered nurses listed bilingualism as a desired skill. Nursing is expected to experience its own boom in the coming years, with nurse practitioner projected to be the fastest-growing occupation in the U.S. between 2021 and 2031. Recent hiring trends in the field indicate that Spanish language skills will be highly desirable for these positions.

There is also good news for Spanish-English bilinguals who plan to work outside of healthcare. Bank of America targeted bilinguals in more than one-third of its job listings in 2015. H&R Block sought bilingual employees in almost a quarter of its recruiting ads. Employers' need for fluent bilinguals has been so great that the job site Indeed recently ranked translation as the fifth most in-demand skill in the workforce.

But while all signs point to the need for more Spanish-English bilinguals in the workforce, the number of students enrolled in Spanish classes in U.S. universities has been steadily declining. Enrollments in Spanish decreased by over 17% between 2009 and 2016 and preliminary data suggest another steep decline in the years since. This shows a clear disconnect between the need for more people in the U.S. who can speak Spanish and the number of people formally studying the language at the college level.

By **RUSSELL SIMONSEN**

Los Angeles Times

Russell Simonsen is an assistant professor of Spanish at Miami University.

It is not clear why students have been moving away from studying foreign languages in higher education, but the perceived market value of college majors may play a role. The first large decline in language enrollments this century occurred after the 2008 financial crisis. The unpredictability of the last few

years may have motivated more students to pursue majors that are more likely to lead to high entry-level pay upon graduation, such as health, STEM and business.

I have no delusions of convincing a large number of college students to switch majors from pre-med or finance to

The number of job postings aimed at Spanish-English bilinguals more than doubled between 2010 and 2015.

Spanish. However, many students have already figured out a happy medium that maximizes their appeal to future employers: the double major. At Ohio State University, approximately 60% of those getting a degree in Spanish are double majors. Many of these students have the advantage of pursuing a main career path with high entry-level pay and gaining the Spanish proficiency and intercultural knowledge that employers increasingly seek. Additionally, foreign language majors typically develop excellent communication skills, which are highly coveted by employers.

As the number of Spanish speakers in the U.S. continues to rise, Spanish-English bilinguals will be highly competitive candidates on the job market. College graduates with a Spanish degree will be able to confidently apply to jobs that list bilingualism as a desirable skill in addition to those that don't, a luxury that monolingual English speakers will not have.

The Spanish language boom in the U.S. may have already begun, but it will become more apparent over the next several decades, especially in the workforce. College students can put themselves a step ahead by learning the language now.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Flight canceled? Stuck on the tarmac? Here's a solution: more women in aviation

The aviation industry has a problem. A shortage of airline pilots is causing a “constraint on capacity,” which translates to canceled flights and delays for travelers—especially on smaller airlines. There’s more: In early April, the FAA warned that a shortage of air traffic controllers is expected to gum up travel this summer, especially in the Northeast. And according to one industry observer, the lack of maintenance personnel in aviation is reaching crisis levels.

Aviation’s capacity woes underline a massive industry blind spot: Women remain largely grounded. Women make up less than 20% of those employed in all aviation jobs in the U.S., a figure that skews that high only because so many flight attendants and customer service agents are women. Only 4.6% of airline pilots are women, and aviation mechanics fare even worse, at 2.6%.

The low pilot numbers are especially discouraging compared with women’s progress in other professional fields. In 2021, women made up 37.1% of physicians in the U.S., up from 7.1% in 1970. In 2022, 38% of attorneys were women, up from 3% in 1970. Overall, women account for 51.8% of those employed in professional, management and related fields.

What is keeping women out of aviation?

The issue is largely cultural. As several of my male colleagues like to say, U.S. aviation is “male, pale and stale.”

A 2018 survey for Women in Aviation International found that more than a third of women in the industry perceive that a “good old boy” network persists. Women cited “male dominated culture” as a bigger barrier to an aviation career than “family/life/work balance.” And 71% of the survey respondents reported they had been sexually harassed at work.

“Male-centric” defines almost everything about aviation and aerospace. The language of regulations is gendered; equipment and uniforms are designed for men; images in training materials depict mostly men. The message, in big ways and small, is that aviation is not a woman’s job.

Even minor attempts to change the culture are often resisted. In December 2021, the FAA changed the meaning of its acronym NOTAM from “Notice to Airmen” to “Notice to Air Missions.” NOTAMs are updates sent to all flight crews in real time about weather or ground conditions that could affect a flight. In addition to being more inclusive, “Air Missions” is also more accurate, but from the male howls of protest that ensued, you’d have thought the FAA was suddenly banning men from the cockpit.

So what can be done? We can look to another country as a model: India.

As several of my male colleagues like to say, U.S. aviation is ‘male, pale and stale.’

At 12.4%, India has the highest percentage of female pilots in the world, more than double that of the U.S. One reason is a national push that began decades ago to bring more women into STEM and aviation careers. A program for training students to fly light aircraft has existed since 1948, and many companies and state governments offer scholarships or subsidies to help women earn their wings. Airlines in India have also instituted policies that help women juggle aviation careers and family life, including allowing them to fly while pregnant, providing six months of paid maternity leave, creating flexible work schedules and offering childcare.

In the U.S., airlines are slowly overhauling employment policies to make them more friendly to women, but the comparison is telling. According to one female Delta pilot, Delta provides 12 weeks of paid maternity leave and two weeks of paid parental leave.

In addition to improving work/life balance issues, U.S.

By EILEEN A. BJORKMAN

Los Angeles Times



Eileen A. Bjorkman is a retired Air Force colonel and the author of *The Fly Girls Revolt: The Story of the Women Who Kicked Open the Door to Fly in Combat*.

aviation must revamp its outreach efforts.

A recent study by the Experimental Aircraft Assn. found that women who entered aviation were likely to become interested at an early age: 29% were younger than 10 when they got hooked. Another survey by the University of Nebraska found that only 15% of women were exposed to aviation during school. But instead of focused national outreach and programs aimed at school-age youngsters, introductory aviation efforts in the U.S. are fragmented, with hundreds of small and large efforts.

The Civil Air Patrol, with its cadet squadrons, is one of the few national efforts to involve kids in aviation; most of the rest are programs sponsored by local airports and small museums. Unfortunately, many depend completely on volunteers, and most are underfunded, which limits the number of participants. In addition, few of the programs specifically target girls and young women.

We need an umbrella organization to integrate the disparate programs, develop specific outreach for girls and lobby the industry on women’s behalf. One of its primary tasks should be raising resources for robust local training programs and aviation and STEM scholarships.

We should also set a goal: In 10 years, let’s double the percentage of women in all segments of the aviation industry where they are underrepresented. India has done it. So can we.

Last year, air travelers logged a record number of complaints with the FAA. They were angry about delayed flights and missed connections, millions of cancellations and spending hours trapped in planes that sometimes never get off the tarmac. Until we fix aviation’s “pale, male and stale” problem, the frustrations will only get worse.

Don’t believe your lying eyes in the AI era

A fake photo of an explosion near the Pentagon went viral across Twitter on Monday, and stocks dipped. The incident confirmed what many have said for months: Misinformation is on course to be supercharged as new AI tools for concocting photos get easier to use.

Fixing this problem with technology will be an endless game of whack-a-mole. It’s certainly worth trying to track image provenance, as Adobe Inc. is doing with its Content Authenticity Initiative. But as the saying goes, a lie can travel around the world and back again while the truth is still lacing up its boots. In a world where more content than ever is being generated artificially, we’ll all need to become more skeptical about what we see online—especially in the run-up to a US presidential election next year.

The Pentagon “photo” became particularly messy because of Twitter’s poor excuse for a verification system. Elon Musk revamped the site’s blue ticks so that they would no longer be monopolized by “elites” like press and celebrities, and so more people could become verified and have a louder voice for a flat fee. Unfortunately, his system has become a target for imitators, like the paid account BloombergFeed, which was one of several verified accounts that posted the Pentagon photo before getting suspended Monday morning.

Bloomberg Feed and a Twitter account called Walter Bloomberg, which also carried the report, are not affiliated with Bloomberg News, according to a spokesperson for Bloomberg News.

Although Twitter has made a perfect environment for fake AI photos to flourish, the problem ultimately goes beyond the platform. The Pentagon photo originated on Facebook and we can expect more photos like it circulating on other

social networks too, such as WhatsApp, where fake information about the elections in Brazil last year went viral through the app’s forwarding feature.

TikTok could also become more susceptible to fake videos soon enough. Early examples of videos made from AI tools still look glitchy, but they’re likely to become more realistic in the next year or two, with millions of dollars of venture-capital investment going into startups building deepfake technology (for legitimate purposes, of course).

For instance, New York startup Runway has just released a tool that allows anyone to transform one video into another type of video using words and images as prompts, while San Francisco-based Gan.ai has raised money from VC luminaries like Sequoia Capital to sell “video personalisation” software to brands.

While realistic fake videos might still be a year or two out, image generation is becoming easier than ever. Adobe has just updated its Photoshop software with generative AI tools that allow users of the ubiquitous image-editing software to manipulate photos in much more drastic ways. And there are several good image-generating tools available as mobile apps, making them easier for people to access on the go. While tools like Adobe’s, Midjourney Inc.’s, or OpenAI’s DALL-E 2 won’t create images of celebrities, politicians, violence and war, open-source alternatives like Stable Diffusion will.

When I asked Stable Diffusion’s co-founder last year about how the world should deal with a surge in fake photos, he said we’ll all have to adjust. “People will be aware of the fact that anyone can create that image on their phone, in one second,” Emad Mostaque said. “People will be like, ‘Oh it’s probably just created.’”

By PARMY OLSON

Bloomberg Opinion



Parmy Olson is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist covering technology. A former reporter for the Wall Street Journal and Forbes, she is author of *We Are Anonymous*.

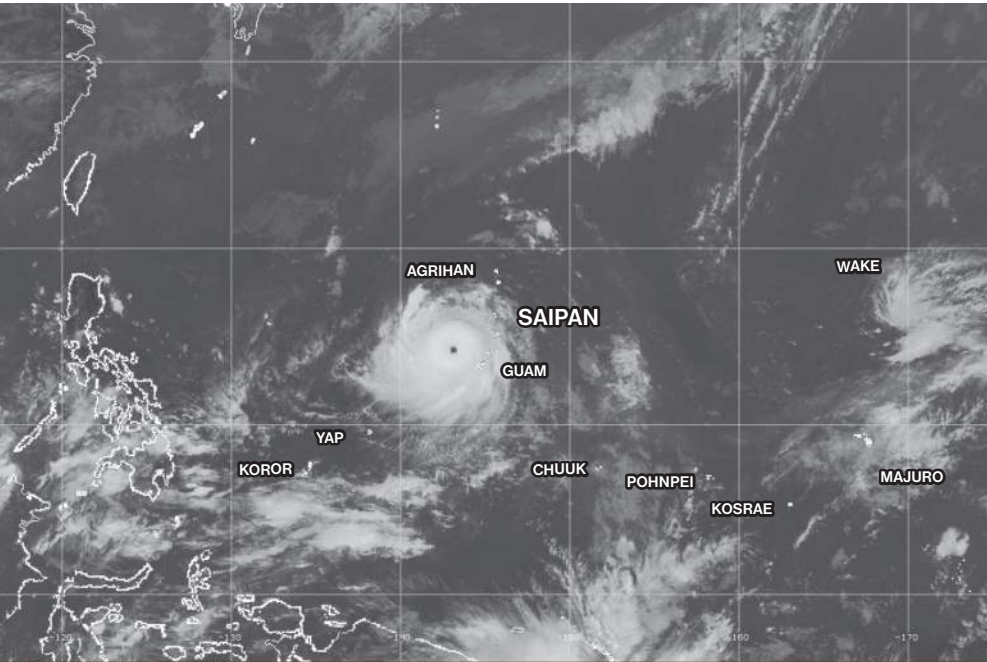
Remember the internet jargon, “pics or it didn’t happen?” Soon enough, pics won’t be so useful for proof, and we’ll find ourselves questioning legitimate images too. Twitter users got a taste of AI’s potential for accelerating misinformation in March, when a fake photo of Pope Benedict in a puffer jacket went viral. As we predicted back then, the potential for fakery has taken a darker turn.

Generative AI and dodgy blue checkmarks are a perfect mix for misinformation to thrive on Twitter, and as Meta Platforms Inc. prepares to cut more jobs in the coming weeks, staff are concerned their content moderation teams will get curbed too, according to a Tuesday report in the Washington Post, meaning there will be fewer people to handle the problem.

This time last year, platforms like Twitter and Facebook had improved their abilities to stamp out misinformation. Things look different today. The tech companies have to do a better job of preventing fake news from spreading—but we will also need to approach them with greater doses of skepticism. At a time when seeing is no longer believing, we must arm ourselves with more discerning eyes, and a little more doubt.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY	
A 40 percent chance of showers. Partly sunny		A 50 percent chance of showers. Mostly cloudy		A 50 percent chance of showers. Mostly cloudy		A chance of showers. Partly sunny		Cloudy	
85°	76°	86°	78°	86°	78°	86°	78°	86°	78°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 6:47 AM, THURSDAY, MAY 25, 2023
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Typhoon Mawar is moving through to the north of Guam. Typhoon conditions will continue for the next several hours.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA ▲ ▼ °F		
Guam and Rota	Scattered Thunderstorms	87° / 78°
Palau	Scattered Thunderstorms	85° / 78°
Yap	Scattered Thunderstorms	87° / 80°
Chuuk	Scattered Thunderstorms	86° / 80°
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	89° / 77°
Kosrae	Scattered Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Majuro	Scattered Thunderstorms	85° / 81°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:46 AM	6:41 PM
Saturday	5:46 AM	6:42 PM
Sunday	5:46 AM	6:42 PM
Monday	5:46 AM	6:42 PM
Tuesday	5:45 AM	6:43 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	11:05 AM	-	-
Saturday	-	12:12 AM	11:54 AM
Sunday	-	12:49 AM	12:42 PM
Monday	-	1:23 AM	1:30 PM
Tuesday	-	1:58 AM	2:17 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE ▲ ▼ °F		
Auckland	Mostly Sunny	63° / 54°
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	91° / 67°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	83° / 72°
London	Partly Cloudy	65° / 46°
Los Angeles	Cloudy	67° / 56°
Manila	Thunderstorms	90° / 79°
Melbourne	Rain	58° / 45°
Miami	Thunderstorms	83° / 74°
New York	Sunny	69° / 52°
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	77° / 63°
Paris	Mostly Sunny	73° / 52°
Busan	Showers	69° / 62°
Rome	Thunderstorms	82° / 59°
Salem	Sunny	82° / 59°
San Francisco	Cloudy	62° / 53°
Seoul	Showers	78° / 63°
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	76° / 63°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	73° / 50°s

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY FEET		
1:39 AM	High Tide	1.84
7:10 AM	Low Tide	1.41
10:48 AM	High Tide	1.59
6:33 PM	Low Tide	0.25

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 30, 2023							
DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily	UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	Daily
SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
UA824	7:25AM	9:55AM	1, 3, 5	UA825	9:25PM	1:50AM+1	2, 4, 7
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily	UA184	10:25PM	4:15AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA193	6:55PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau	UA189	10:25PM	6:10AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:15PM	9:10PM	Daily	PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
				UA192	11:50PM	5:35AM+1	2, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/703	4:20AM	10:35PM	1, 4, 5, 7 via ICN	UA184/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via Guam
UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam	UA192/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau	UA184/174	11:50PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Guam
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)				INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily	7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
OZ626	4:20AM	7:55AM	1, 4, 5, 7	TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily	OZ625	9:25PM	2:55AM+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily	7C3405	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.									
FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022									
SAIPAN TO ROTA				ROTA TO SAIPAN					
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY		
1301	8:30	9:00	Daily	3101	9:30	10:00	Daily		
1302	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri	3102	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun		
1302	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun	3102	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri		
1303	15:30	16:00	Daily	3103	16:30	17:00	Daily		
ROTA TO GUAM				GUAM TO ROTA					
LIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY		
3401	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri	4301	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri		
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				TINIAN TO SAIPAN					
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY		
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily	2102	8:30	8:45	Daily		
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily	2103	9:30	9:45	Daily		
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily	2104	10:30	10:45	Daily		
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily	2108	14:30	14:45	Daily		
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily	2109	15:30	15:45	Daily		
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily	2110	16:30	16:45	Daily		
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily	2111	17:30	17:45	Daily		

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Business

Kensington creates souvenir chocolate brand

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The CNMI now has a chocolate souvenir it can proudly call its own with Kensington Hotel Saipan launching its Chico de Marianas brand of chocolates.

Inspired by Kiss of Marianas in Chamorro, Chico de Marianas encapsulates the unique flavors the Marianas has to offer—ma'aksom (citrus sour lime), duci (tropical sweet mango), pika (spicy hot pepper), and ppwil (creamy sweet potato)—all encased in premium Belgian chocolate.

Organically grown small-round type Saipan limes, ma'aksom is known for its juicy flesh, acidic flavor, and refreshing aroma, while duci

are mangoes grown on Saipan that have a dainty subtle curve with blushing red end and golden yellow flesh inside.

Pika, meanwhile, has been made famous by Tinian's yearly Pika Fest that celebrates the island's donne sali hot pepper, which may be small in size, but intensely spicy in taste.

Lastly, ppwil is Rota's kamut—is sweet potatoes that are known for their sweet flavor, rich texture, and tinted purple color.

Kensington Hotel Food & Beverage director Eun Ah "Amy" Cho said indulging on Chico de Marianas also has steps as you have to enjoy them

in order—sour (ma'aksom), sweet (duci), spicy (pika), and creamy (ppwil)—to experience the rich flavor of the chocolate more.

Pastry chef Sung Won

"Sam" Hong said they chose the first four flavors of Chico de Marianas because they best identify the tropical paradise of the CNMI.

"We want to use local pro-

duce that's why we chose the local lime, local mango, Tinian hot pepper, and Rota sweet potato," he said adding that they want local farmers to sell them limes, mangoes, hot peppers, and sweet potatoes so they can ramp up production of Chico de Marianas.

After starting two weeks ago, Cho they currently make 100 boxes a day which is exactly 400 pieces of Chico de Marianas.

"Target is to make Chico de Marianas the souvenir choco-



MARK RABAGO

A line of duci (tropical sweet mango) chocolates fresh from Kensington Hotel Saipan's own factory.

late of choice to bring home by tourists after visiting the CNMI," she said.

Cho and Hong said Kensington Hotel is open to develop more flavors using local produce like breadfruit (malafala) and coconut.

Both also acknowledged the candy-making skills of chef Haena Kim.

"She is a very good candy-maker and can basically make a chocolate out of everything," said Cho.

"I like spicy flavors and I like making chocolates," said Kim.

Chico de Marianas is not only enticing tourists, but is also welcomed by local residents.

According to Cho, local customers buy the chocolate as gifts for their loved ones or whom they want to express appreciation to.

Some residents purchase Chico de Marianas when they travel and visit friends and families overseas.

Chico de Marianas is available 10am-5pm everyday at OHAS Café in Kensington Hotel Saipan. It will soon be available at Kensington Hotel's sister hotels Pacific Islands Club Saipan and Coral Ocean Resort. It costs only \$19.90 per box and \$70 for four boxes.

For more information about Chico de Marianas or to reserve orders, call (670) 322-3311.



MARK RABAGO

Kensington Hotel Saipan Food & Beverage director Eun Ah "Amy" Cho, center, is flanked by pastry chef Sung Won "Sam" Hong, left, and chef Haena Kim while showing off the hotel's Chico de Marianas souvenir chocolates.

Expect big crowds for the summer travel season—and big prices, too

By DAVID KOENIG
AP AIRLINES WRITER

The unofficial start of the summer travel season is here, with airlines hoping to avoid the chaos of last year and travelers scrounging for ways to save a few bucks on pricey fares and hotel rooms.

Some travelers say they will settle for fewer trips than they hoped to take, or they will drive instead of fly. Others are finding different money-saving sacrifices.

Stephanie Hanrahan thought she'd save money by planning ahead for her daughter's birthday trip to Disney World in Florida. Instead, it ended up costing the same as the Dallas-area family's trip for four to California last summer, so now her husband and son are staying home.

"We just had to grit our teeth," said Hanrahan, a writer and speaker who also runs a nonprofit, as she and daughter Campbell waited for their flight last week at Dallas Love Field.

The number of people

going through U.S. airports hit pandemic-era highs last weekend, and those records are almost certain to be broken over the Memorial Day holiday.

AAA predicts that 37 million Americans will drive at least 50 miles (80 kilometers) from home this weekend, an increase of more than 2 million from Memorial Day last year but still below pre-pandemic numbers in 2019. The Transportation Security Administration expects to screen 10 million travelers between Friday and Monday, a 14% increase over the holiday in 2022 and slightly more than in 2019.

With more travel comes more expense. The average rate for a U.S. hotel room last week was \$157 a night, up from \$150 in the same week last year, according to hotel data provider STR. And the average daily rate for other short-term rentals such as Airbnb and Vrbo rose to \$316 last month, up 1.4% from a year ago, according to AirDNA, which tracks the industry.

McCarthy's Republicans push debt ceiling talks to brink

WASHINGTON (AP)—House Republicans are pushing debt ceiling talks to the brink, displaying risky political bravado as they prepare to leave town Thursday for the holiday weekend just days before the U.S. could face an unprecedented default that could hurl the global economy into chaos.

A defiant House Speaker Kevin McCarthy said the debt ceiling standoff was "not my fault" as Republican negotiators and the White House failed to finish out talks. He

» Lawmakers leaving town for weekend

warned they need more time to try to reach a budget-slashing deal with President Joe Biden.

But it's clear the Republican speaker—who leads a Trump-aligned party whose hard-right flank lifted him to power—is now staring down a potential crisis.

Lawmakers are tentatively not expected back at work until Tuesday, just two days from June 1, when Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen has said the U.S. could start running out of

cash to pay its bills and face a potentially catastrophic default.

Fitch Ratings agency placed the United States' AAA credit on "ratings watch negative," warning of a possible downgrade because of what it called the brinkmanship and political partisanship surrounding the debate over lifting the debt ceiling.

"This is a battle between extremism and common sense," said Democratic Rep. Katherine Clark of Massachusetts,

the minority whip.

The Republicans, she said, "want the American people to make an impossible choice: devastating cuts or devastating debt default."

Weeks of negotiations between Republicans and the White House have failed to produce a deal — in part because the Biden administration never expected to be having to negotiate with McCarthy over the debt limit, arguing it should not be used as leverage to extract other partisan priorities.

Nation

The United States grew older, faster, last decade.

The share of residents 65 or older grew by more than a third from 2010 to 2020 and at the fastest rate of any decade in 130 years, while the share of children declined, according to new figures from the most recent census.

The declining percentage of children under age 5 was particularly noteworthy in the figures from the 2020 head count released Thursday. Combined, the trends mean the median age in the U.S. jumped from 37.2 to 38.8 over the decade.

America's two largest age groups propelled the changes: more baby boomers turning 65 or older and millennials who became adults or pushed further into their 20s and early 30s. Also, fewer children were born between 2010 and 2020, according to numbers from the once-a-decade head count of every U.S. resident. The decline stems from women delaying having babies until later in life, in many cases to focus on education and careers, according to experts, who noted that birth rates never recovered following the Great Recession of 2007-2009.

"In the short run, the crisis of work-family balance, the lack of affordable child-care, stresses associated with health care, housing, and employment stability, all put a damper on birth rates by increasing uncertainty and making it harder to decide to have and raise children," said Philip Cohen, a sociologist at the University of Maryland.

There are important social



AS FEWER CHILDREN ARE BORN BABY BOOMERS push nation's median age higher

By MIKE SCHNEIDER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

AP
Lizzie Chimiugak looks on at her home on Monday, Jan. 20, 2020, in Toksook Bay, Alaska. Chimiugak, who turned 90 years old on Monday, is scheduled to be the first person counted in the 2020 U.S. Census on Tuesday.

and economic consequences to an aging population, including the ability of working-age adults to support older people through Social Security and Medicare contributions. The Census Bureau calculates a dependency ratio, defined as the number of children plus the number of seniors per 100 working-age people. While the dependency ratio decreased for children from 2010 to 2020, it increased for seniors by 6.8 people.

At the top end of the age spectrum, the number of people over 100 increased by half, from more than 53,000 people to more than 80,000. The share of men living into old age also

jumped, benefitting from a century of vaccines and antibiotic developments, improvements in surgery and better treatment of diseases, said Thomas Perls, a professor of medicine at Boston University.

"Many more people who have the genetic makeup and environmental exposures that increase one's chances of getting to 100, but who would have otherwise died of what are now readily reversible problems, are able to fulfill their survival destiny," Perls said.

The Census Bureau released two earlier data sets from the 2020 census in 2021: state population figures used to decide how many congress-

sional seats each state gets and redistricting numbers used to draw political districts. Thursday's data release was delayed by almost two years because of pandemic-related difficulties gathering the information and efforts by the Census Bureau to implement a new, controversial privacy protection method that uses algorithms to add intentional errors to obscure the identity of any given respondent.

This was the first census since the U.S. Supreme Court legalized same-sex marriage in 2015, and it showed same-

sex households made up 1.7% of coupled households. Since the census didn't ask about sexual orientation, it didn't capture LGBTQ+ people who are single or don't live with a partner or spouse.

The median age varied widely by race and ethnicity. Non-Hispanic whites were the oldest cohort, with a median age of 44.5. Hispanics were the youngest, with a median age of 30; and a quarter of all children in the U.S. were Hispanic. Black Americans who weren't Hispanic, had a median age of 35.5. The number

was for 37.2 for Asians.

Utah, home to the largest Mormon population in the U.S., was the youngest state, with a median age of 31.3, a function of having one of the nation's highest birthrates. The District of Columbia's median age of 33.9 was a close second due to the large number of young, working-age adults commonly found in urban areas. North Dakota was the only state where the median age declined, from 37 to 35.8, as an influx of young workers arrived to work in a booming energy sector.

DeSantis launches GOP presidential campaign in Twitter

MIAMI (AP)—Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis launched his 2024 presidential campaign on Wednesday with firm words but a disastrous Twitter announcement that did little to counter criticism that the 44-year-old Republican may not be ready to take on former President Donald Trump.

While he tried to project confidence, DeSantis' unusual decision to announce his campaign in an online conversation with Twitter CEO Elon Musk ultimately backfired. The audio stream crashed repeatedly, making it virtually impossible for most users to hear the new presidential candidate in real time.

"American decline is not inevitable—it is a choice. And we should choose a new direction—a path that will lead to American revitalization," DeSantis said on the glitchy stream, racing through his conservative ac-

complishments. "I am running for president of the United States to lead our great American comeback."

While his critics in both parties delighted in the rocky start, DeSantis' announcement marks a new chapter in his extraordinary rise from little-known congressman to two-term governor to a leading figure in the nation's bitter fights over race, gender, abortion and other divisive issues.

DeSantis' path to the Republican presidential nomination will not be easy.

He enters the race looking up at Trump in early polls while facing serious questions about his far-right policies, his campaign-trail personality and his lack of relationships across the Republican ecosystem. He has generated significant interest among GOP primary voters by casting himself as a younger and more electable

version of the 76-year-old former president.

He did not mention Trump even once in his discussion with Musk that ultimately spanned more than an hour. But he said he was ready to fight.

"Buckle up when I get in there, because the status quo is not acceptable," DeSantis said.

The ultimate Republican nominee is expected to face Democratic President Joe Biden on the general election ballot in November 2024.

DeSantis joins a field that also includes former U.N. Ambassador Nikki Haley, Sen. Tim Scott of South Carolina, former Arkansas Gov. Asa Hutchinson and biotech entrepreneur Vivek Ramaswamy. Former Vice President Mike Pence is also considered a likely presidential candidate but has not yet announced a bid.

By REBECCA SANTANA
ASSOCIATED PRESS

The state of Texas is suing the Biden administration in an attempt to have a newly-introduced asylum rule thrown out, saying a phone app used by migrants to set up appointments at the border to seek entry into the United States is encouraging illegal immigration.

The lawsuit filed Tuesday is the latest legal salvo attacking various aspects of the administration's plan to manage migration in the aftermath of the end of a key pandemic-era immigration regulation called Title 42.

In the lawsuit, Texas argues that the asylum rule encourages the use of a cellphone app — called CBP One — for migrants who don't have proper documentation to make an appointment to come to a port of entry and seek entry into the United States.

Texas argues the Biden administration is essentially encouraging people to come

to the U.S. even though they don't have legal basis to stay.

"The Biden Administration deliberately conceived of this phone app with the goal of illegally pre-approving more foreign aliens to enter the country and go where they please once they arrive," said Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton in a news release.

The complaint was filed in the Western District of Texas.

In a statement Wednesday, the Department of Homeland Security said Texas' lawsuit would actually create disorder, not alleviate it and that the app was part of measures that have helped reduce unlawful immigration by more than 70% since Title 42 ended.

"Lawful pathways like making an appointment to appear at a port of entry using the CBP One app allow us to process migrants in a safe, orderly, and humane way and reduce unlawful immigration. This is particularly critical at a time when Con-

gress has failed to reform our broken immigration system," the department said.

While the lawsuit focuses on the phone app, it seeks to throw out the entire asylum rule, called the Circumvention of Lawful Pathways. The rule went into effect when Title 42 expired May 11. The rule makes it extremely difficult for migrants who travel to the southern border to get asylum if they don't first seek protection in a country they passed through before reaching the U.S. or if they don't apply online through the app.

Use of the app is a core part of the administration's plans to create a more orderly system at the border where migrants set up appointments ahead of time, but when the app was rolled out in January it was criticized for technological problems and because demand has far outstripped available spaces. Migrants can make appointments for specific ports of entry—five of which are in Texas.

Asia

NEAR N. KOREA BORDER

S. Korea, US troops to hold massive live-fire drills

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—The South Korean and U.S. militaries were set to begin massive live-fire drills near the border with North Korea on Thursday, despite the North's warning that it won't tolerate what it calls such a hostile invasion rehearsal on its doorstep.

Thursday's drills, the first of the allies' five rounds of firing exercises until mid-June, mark 70 years since the establishment of the military alliance between Seoul and Washington. North Korea has typically reacted to such major South Korean-U.S. exercises with missile and other weapons tests.

Since the start of 2022, North Korea has test-launched more than 100 missiles but none since it fired a solid-fuel intercontinental ballistic missile in mid-April. North Korea has argued its torrid pace of tests was meant to respond to the expanded military drills between the U.S. and South Korea, but observers say the North aims to advance its weapons development then wrest greater concessions from its rivals in eventual diplomacy.

The U.S.-South Korean firing exercises, called "the combined annihilation firepower drills," would be the biggest of their kind. The drills have been held 11 times since they began in 1977, according to the South Korean Defense Ministry.

Ministry officials said this year's drills are to involve advanced stealth fighter jets, attack helicopters, multiple

rocket launch systems and other weapons from South Korea and the United States. It wasn't immediately known how many troops would take part in the drills, but previous exercises in 2017 drew about 2,000 soldiers and 250 weapons assets from both countries.

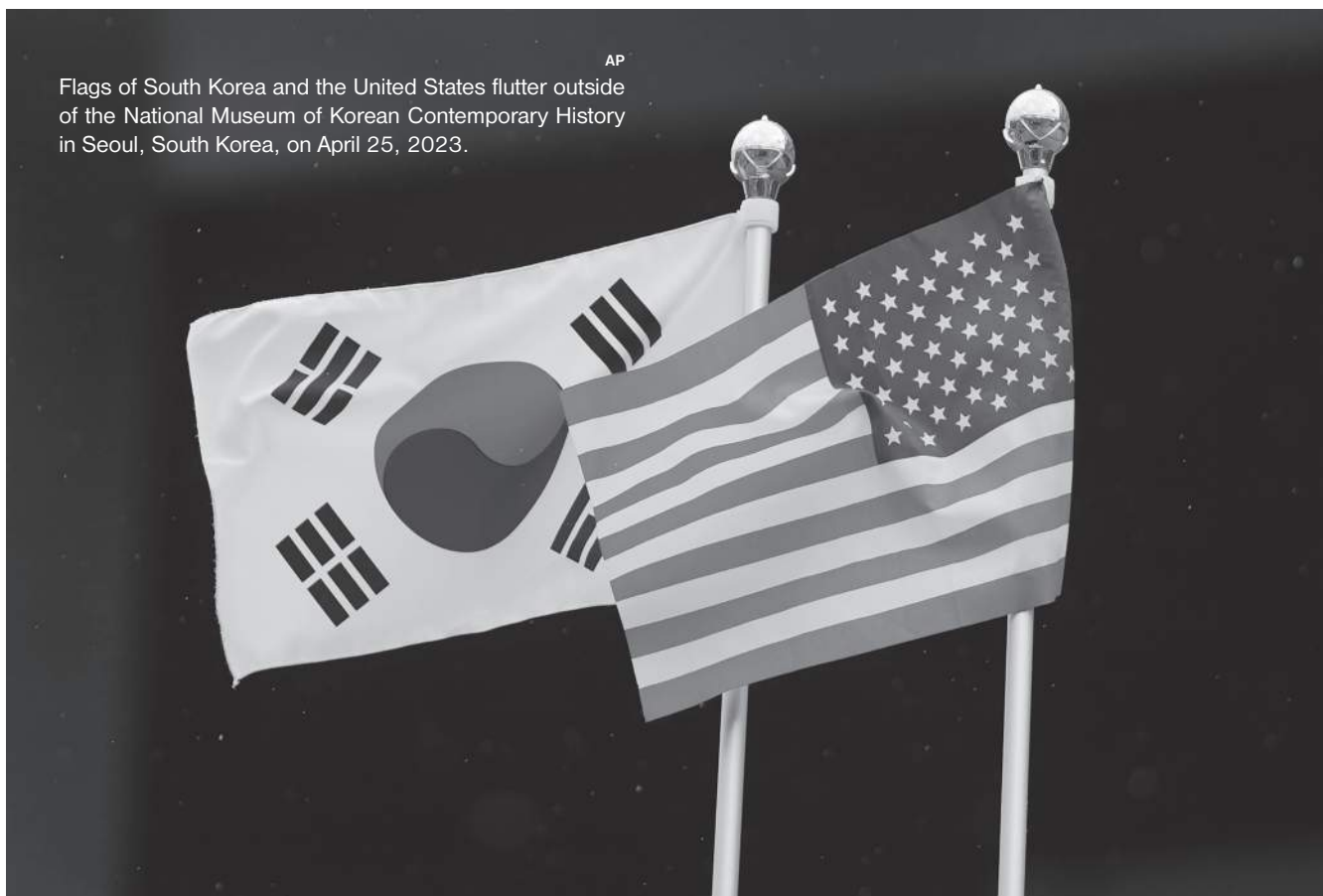
An earlier Defense Ministry statement said the drills are meant to enhance the allies' combined operational performance capabilities. It said South Korea and the United States will seek to establish "the overwhelming deterrence and response capabilities" to cope with North Korean nuclear and missile threats.

Last Friday, North Korea's state media called the drills "a typical North Korea-targeted war rehearsal." It said North Korea "cannot but take a more serious note of the fact that" the drills would be held in an area a few kilometers (miles) from its frontier.

KCNA said the U.S. and South Korea will face unspecified "corresponding responses" over their series of large-scale, provocative drills.

Earlier this year, the South Korean and U.S. militaries conducted their biggest field exercises in five years. The U.S. also sent the nuclear-powered USS Nimitz aircraft carrier and nuclear-capable bombers for joint exercises with South Korea.

In their summit last month, U.S. President Joe Biden and South Korean President Yoon



AP
Flags of South Korea and the United States flutter outside of the National Museum of Korean Contemporary History in Seoul, South Korea, on April 25, 2023.

Suk Yeol announced steps to reinforce their deterrence capabilities such as the periodic docking U.S. nuclear-armed submarines in South Korea; bolstering joint training exercises; and the establishment of a new nuclear consultative group. Biden also issued a blunt warning that any North Korean nuclear attack on the U.S. or its allies would "result in the end of whatever regime" took such action.

Kim Yo Jong, the powerful

sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, later said the Biden-Yoon summit agreement revealed the two countries' "most hostile and aggressive will of action" against the North. She threatened to further

bolster her country's escalatory nuclear doctrine, saying "The pipe dream of the U.S. and South Korea will henceforth be faced with the entity of more powerful strength."

Worries about North Korea's

nuclear program grew after the North last year legislated a law that authorizes the preemptive use of nuclear weapons. Many foreign experts say North Korea has yet to possess functioning nuclear missiles.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Russian PM: Pressure from West strengthening ties with China

BEIJING (AP)—Pressure from the West is strengthening Russia's ties with China, Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin said in a meeting with his Chinese counterpart in Beijing Wednesday. Mishustin's visit comes as Russia is increasingly turning to China for diplomatic and economic support amid growing isolation over its invasion of Ukraine. In opening remarks at his meeting Wednesday with Chinese Premier Li Qiang, Mishustin did not mention the 15-month-old war that China, in deference to Moscow, has refused to criticize, focusing instead on economic cooperation between the neighbors that have partnered in challenging the U.S. lead in global affairs. Relations between the two countries are "at an unprecedented high level," influenced by the "pressure of illegitimate sanctions from the collective West," Mishustin said. China says it is a neutral party between Russia and Ukraine and wants to help broker an end to the conflict. But it has blamed the West for provoking Moscow and has maintained strong diplomatic and trade ties with Russia in op-

position to sanctions against it.

Modi strikes new agreements on migration and green hydrogen in Australia

SYDNEY (AP)—Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi struck new agreements Wednesday with his Australian counterpart Anthony Albanese on migration and green hydrogen, while raising concerns about attacks on Hindu temples in Sydney. Modi was welcomed Tuesday by around 20,000 cheering fans, many chanting "Modi," at a Sydney stadium for his second visit to Australia as India's leader. But his visit has also been protested by activists who accuse his government of restricting Muslim and other minorities' rights, as well as press freedom. Anti-Modi posters appeared around Sydney, and Hindu temples in Sydney's west were recently vandalized. Sikhs have also used the visit to demand a separate state. Modi, a Hindu, said he had raised the issue of attacks on temples with Albanese, who assured him that authorities would take "strict actions" against the culprits. "We will not accept any elements that harm the friendly and warm ties between India and Australia

by their actions or thoughts," Modi told reporters through an interpreter in a joint press conference with Albanese. Neither leader took questions. The Indian diaspora accounts for only 3% of Australia's population but is the nation's fastest growing ethnic minority. Modi described the diaspora as the real strength in the growing bilateral relationship.

Roof collapses at school in Thailand, killing 7 sheltering from rain

BANGKOK (AP)—Seven people, including four children, died Monday when strong winds from a rainstorm caused a metal roof on a school's activity center to collapse in northern Thailand, officials said Tuesday. The latest casualty was a 6-year-old boy who died late Monday night in a hospital after the collapse at the Wat Nern Por primary school, according to the public relations office in Phichit province, 300 kilometers (185 miles) north of Bangkok. Several students had gone inside the activity center to shelter from the rain when the roof collapsed, according to a Facebook post from the official disaster prevention department, and 18 people were hospitalized.

Japan to provide 100 military vehicles to Ukraine

TOKYO (AP)—Japan held a ceremony on Wednesday marking its planned donation of about 100 military vehicles to Ukraine, as Tokyo seeks to provide equipment that can be of broader military use than its earlier shipments of helmets and hazmat suits.

In a ceremony at the Defense Ministry at which two half-ton trucks were on display, Japanese Vice Defense Minister Toshiro Ino handed a document to Ukrainian Ambassador Sergiy Korsunsky listing the three types of vehicles included in the donation.

"We hope the invasion ends as soon as possible and peaceful daily lives return," Ino said. "We will provide as much support as we can."

The donation, which also includes 30,000 food rations, comes as Japan's government is seeking to ease its military equipment transfer policy under a new national security policy that allows its

military a greater offensive role, in a major break from its post-World War II self-defense-only principle.

While other countries have provided Ukraine with tanks, missiles and fighter jets, Japan has limited its donations to non-lethal equipment because the transfer policy prohibits the provision of lethal weapons to countries at war.

Japan has provided Ukraine with bulletproof vests, helmets, gas masks, hazmat suits, small drones and food rations since Russia's invasion began last year.

Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida pledged the trucks to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy when they met in Hiroshima on Sunday on the sidelines of the Group of Seven summit. Japan has also offered to treat injured Ukrainian soldiers at a Japanese military hospital.

The vehicles consist of half-ton trucks, high mobility vehicles and material han-

dling vehicles, the government said. The Acquisition, Technology and Logistics Agency said the details, including the exact number of vehicles and timing of their shipment, are being finalized.

Tokyo has joined the United States and European nations in sanctioning Russia over its invasion and in providing humanitarian and economic support for Ukraine.

Japan was quick to react because of fears of a possible impact from the war on East Asia, where China's military has grown increasingly assertive and has escalated tensions around self-governed Taiwan, which Beijing claims as its territory.

Japan has contributed more than \$7 billion to Ukraine. It has also accepted more than 2,000 displaced Ukrainians and helped them with housing and support for jobs and education, a rare move in a country known for its strict immigration policy.

World

Ukraine urges African nations to ditch neutrality in Russia war

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia (AP)—Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba is urging African countries to abandon their stances of neutrality towards his country's war with Russia.

Many African countries have refused to take sides in the European conflict, with several abstaining from votes at the United Nations General Assembly condemning Russia's invasion. Ethiopia is one of them.

Speaking in Addis Ababa, the Ethiopian capital, on Wednesday, Kuleba said Ukraine was "very upset that some African countries chose to abstain" and called them to lend Ukraine diplomatic support "in the face of Russian aggression."

"Neutrality is not the an-

swer," he told reporters. "By being neutral towards Russian aggression against Ukraine, you project neutrality to the violations of borders and mass crimes that may occur very close to you."

■ ■ ■

KYIV, Ukraine (AP)—The head of the Russian private army Wagner has again broken with the Kremlin line on Ukraine, saying its goal of demilitarizing the country has backfired, acknowledging Russian troops have killed civilians and agreeing with Western estimates that he's lost more than 20,000 men in the battle for Bakhmut.

Yevgeny Prigozhin said about half of those who died in the eastern Ukrainian city were Russian convicts

recruited for the 15-month-old war. His figures stood in stark contrast to Moscow's widely disputed claims that just over 6,000 of its troops were killed throughout the war as of January. By comparison, official Soviet troop losses in the 1979-89 Afghanistan war were 15,000.

Ukraine hasn't said how many of its soldiers have died since Russia's full-scale invasion began in February 2022.

White House officials said Wednesday that Prigozhin's comments were in line with their own estimates that Russian losses have accelerated. The White House estimated this month that Russian forces had suffered 100,000 casualties, including 20,000 killed in fight-

ing, since December. White House National Security Council spokesman John Kirby said then that about half of those killed were Wagner forces.

Analysts believe many of those killed in the nine-month fight for Bakhmut were Russian convicts with little military training.

Prigozhin—himself a former convict—has frequently criticized Russian military officials for not supplying his troops with enough ammunition. He also has questioned their tactics, commitment and leadership capabilities, and complained they haven't sufficiently credited his forces for battlefield successes.

■ ■ ■

Russia has built a substan-

tial presence in several parts of Africa, where Russian private military contractor Wagner is active, and recently held joint military drills with South Africa. Russia plans to hold an Africa-Russia summit in July.

Kuleba also called on African countries to endorse the "ten-point peace formula" proposed by President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in December and emphasised Ukraine's wish to build "mutually beneficial" relations with Africa, based on trade in energy, technology and pharmaceuticals.

"We have to remind each other of the importance of Africa to Ukraine and the importance of Ukraine to Africa," Kuleba said, admitting that Ukraine's previous attitude towards the continent was characterised by "inertia."

Both Ukraine and Russia supply a significant amount of

grain to Africa.

Kuleba is currently on an African tour that also includes visits to Morocco and Rwanda. In Ethiopia, he held discussions with Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, African Union Commission Chairman Moussa Faki Mahamat and Azali Assoumani, the president of the Comoros and current chair of the continent-wide body.

Kuleba made his first trip to Africa in October when he visited Senegal, Ivory Coast, Ghana and Kenya. The trip was cut short after Russia launched strikes against Ukrainian infrastructure.

His Russian counterpart, Sergey Lavrov, has also been active in shoring up ties with African countries since the Ukraine war broke out, touring the continent once in 2021 and making at least two visits so far this year.



AP

Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba speaks at a press conference at a hotel in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia Wednesday, May 24, 2023.

Bolivia's Catholic Church acknowledges being 'deaf' to sex abuse victims

LA PAZ, Bolivia (AP)—Leaders of the Roman Catholic Church in Bolivia acknowledged Wednesday that the church had been deaf to the suffering of victims of sexual abuse, commenting as a pedophilia scandal involving priests is rocking the country.

In a statement, the Andean nation's Catholic bishops said that "as a church, we are facing a painful moment ... because we are certain that we have been directly or indirectly involved in the deep pain caused to innocent victims."

The statement comes amid the fallout from the case involving a late Spanish Je-

suit priest, Alfonso Pedrajas. According to a private diary accessed by the Spanish newspaper El País, Pedrajas allegedly abused dozens of minors in Catholic boarding schools in Bolivia in the 1970s and 1980s. He died of cancer in 2009.

Earlier this week, Jordi Bertemeu, one of the Vatican's top sex crimes investigators, arrived in Bolivia.

The bishops said that while "we know there is no way to compensate for the damage caused, we are committed to do everything possible to ... seek a reparation, with the support of professionals who

provide assistance and help heal wounds and scars."

The Prosecutor's Office initiated an investigation—which remains confidential—and has called on the victims to testify. New cases of sexual abuse have been uncovered as a result of this probe and one priest was sent to pre-trial detention for three months earlier this month.

Bolivian President Luis Arce sent a letter to Pope Francis earlier this week, requesting that the church release any documents about sexual abuse by priests in Bolivia.

In the letter, Arce calls on church authorities to "move

from pronouncements to concrete actions to prevent impunity."

In their statement, the Bolivian bishops said the church would set up two commissions to "determine responsibilities." They promised to provide updates, saying they would "contribute to a transparent investigation" by the justice system.

The Jesuit Society in Bolivia previously apologized to victims and pledged to support the investigation while denouncing Pedrajas' superiors for an alleged cover-up. Many of the people singled out are no longer in office or have died.

Turkish anti-migrant party backs Erdogan's rival in presidential runoff

ANKARA, Turkey (AP)—A hard-line, anti-migrant party on Wednesday threw its weight behind the opposition candidate who is running against Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in this weekend's runoff presidential race.

Umit Ozdag, the leader of the far-right Victory Party, announced his support for main opposition party leader Kemal Kilicdaroglu, who will be facing off against Erdogan on Sunday. He said he decided to back Kilicdaroglu after the two reached a consensus on the need to repatriate millions of migrants within a year.

Kilicdaroglu "has stated very clearly that refugees should return to their homeland and that this is the policy he will implement," Ozdag told reporters following several rounds of talks with Kilicdaroglu. "Therefore, as the Victory Party, we decided to support Mr. Kilicdaroglu in the second round of the presidential election."

Ozdag added that the two agreed on "a model that is in line with international laws and upholds human rights, that would ensure the security of Syrians in Syria but lift the heavy burden on Turkey's economy and that would make our streets safe again."

Ozdag's announcement came just days after Sinan Ogan, the third-placed contender in the first round of the presidential election on May 14, endorsed Erdogan

in the upcoming runoff. Ogan was the joint candidate of an alliance of small conservative parties, led by Ozdag's Victory Party.

According to a seven-point protocol signed between Kilicdaroglu and Ozdag, the two also agreed on the need to maintain an "effective and determined" fight against the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party, or PKK, and other groups that Turkey considers to be terrorists. The two said they would uphold the country's secular traditions and fight corruption.

Erdogan received 49.5% of the votes in the first round of the presidential race—just short of the majority needed for an outright victory—compared to Kilicdaroglu's 44.9%. Ogan received 5.2%.

Erdogan's ruling party and its nationalist and Islamist allies also retained a majority in the 600-seat parliament—a development that increases Erdogan's chances of reelection because voters are likely to vote for him to avoid a splintered government, analysts say.

In an apparent attempt to woo nationalist voters in the runoff, Kilicdaroglu had hardened his tone last week, vowing to send back refugees and ruling out any peace negotiations with Kurdish militants if he is elected. Kilicdaroglu had previously said he planned to repatriate Syrians within two years, by creating economic and safety conditions conducive to their return.

Off The Wall

Chirping sounds lead airport officials to a bag full of smuggled parrot eggs

LOXAHATCHEE, Fla. (AP)—The 24 bright green baby parrots began chirping and bobbing their heads the second anyone neared the large cages that have been their homes since hatching in March.

The Central American natives, seized from a smuggler at Miami International Airport, are being raised by the Rare Species Conservatory Foundation—a round-the-clock effort that includes five hand feedings a day in a room filled with large cages.

At just 9 weeks old, these parrots have already survived a harrowing journey after being snatched from their nests in a forest. They are almost fully feathered now and the staff has started transitioning them from a special formula to a diet of food pellets and fruit.

“You ready to meet the children?” asked Paul Reillo, a Florida International University professor and director of the foundation, as he led visitors Friday into a small building tucked behind a sprawling house in Loxahatchee, a rural community near West Palm Beach.

“They are hand-raised babies,” he said, as the chicks squawked and looked inquisitively at the visitors. “They’ve never seen mom and dad; they’ve been raised by us since they hatched.”

It was the hatchlings’ faint chirping inside a carry-on bag at the Miami airport that brought them to the attention of a U.S. Customs and Border Protection officer. The passenger, Szu Ta Wu, had just arrived on TACA Airlines flight 392 from Managua, Nicaragua, on March 23, and was changing flights in Miami to return home to Taiwan, according to a criminal complaint filed in U.S. District Court in Miami.

Officers stopped Wu at a checkpoint. He was asked about the sound coming from his bag, which Reillo later described as a “sophisticated” temperature controlled cooler.

Wu reached in and pulled out a smaller bag and showed the officer an egg, the complaint said. The officer then looked inside and saw more eggs and a tiny featherless bird that had just hatched.

He told the officer there were 29 eggs, and that he did not have documentation to transport the birds, according to the complaint.

Wu was arrested, and on May 5 pleaded guilty to charg-



A pair of young red-fore Amazon parrots investigate their environment at the Rare Species Conservatory Foundation in Loxahatchee, Fla., Friday, May 19, 2023. AP

es of smuggling birds into the United States. He faces up to 20 years in prison when he’s sentenced Aug. 1.

A lawyer who could speak on his behalf was not listed on court records, but Wu told investigators through a Mandarin interpreter that a friend had paid him to travel from Taiwan to Nicaragua to pick up the eggs. He denied knowing what kind of birds they were.

The officer took the bag and contacted the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. By then, eight of the birds had already hatched or were in the process of hatching.

It didn’t take long for federal officials to reach out to Reillo.

“They didn’t know what these things were and wanted my advice on it,” Reillo said. Baby parrots are featherless, so it’s difficult to properly identify them.

He helped set up a makeshift incubator in the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s aviary at the airport in a mad dash to save the now-hatching parrots.

The next day, Dr. Stacy McFarlane, a USDA veterinarian who initially tended to the birds and eggs at the airport, and other officials, delivered the baby parrots and remaining eggs to Reillo’s conservatory.

“At that point we were off to the races,” he said. “We’ve got

all these eggs, the chicks are hatching, the incubator’s running and by the time it was all said and done, we hatched 26 of the 29 eggs, and 24 of the 26 chicks survived.”

USDA regulations required the birds to be quarantined for 45 days, meaning that Reillo and his team had to scrub down when entering and leaving the room.

But they still weren’t sure which of the 360 varieties of parrots they were dealing with.

A forensics team at Florida International extracted DNA samples from the eggshells and the deceased birds to identify the species. They discovered the 24 surviving parrots were from eight or nine clutches and included two species—the yellow naped Amazon and the red-fore Amazon.

Both birds are popular in the trafficking and caged-bird industries because they are pretty and have a nice temperament, Reillo said.

The trafficking pipeline out of Central America is well established and has gone on for years, he said.

“In fact, the biggest threat to parrots globally is a combination of habitat loss and trafficking,” Reillo said, adding that about 90% of eggs are poached for illegal parrot trade.

Science & Technology

Space station welcomes 2 Saudi visitors, including Saudi’s first female astronaut

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP)—The International Space Station rolled out the welcome mat Monday for two Saudi visitors, including the kingdom’s first female astronaut.

SpaceX’s chartered flight arrived at the orbiting lab less than 16 hours after blasting off from Florida. The four guests will spend just over a week there, before returning to Earth in their capsule.

The 270-mile-high (430-kilometer-high) docking puts the space station population at 11, representing not only Saudi Arabia and the U.S., but the United Arab Emirates and Russia.

UAE’s astronaut Sultan al-Neyadi greeted them with dates, a traditional Arab welcome.

“This shows how space brings everyone together,” said Saudi Arabia’s first female astronaut, Rayyanah Barnawi, a stem cell researcher. “I’m going to live this experience to the max.”

Saudi fighter pilot Ali al-Qarni dedicated the visit to



In this image from NASA TV, Ali al-Qarni, second from left, and Rayyanah Barnawi of Saudi Arabia, second right, have a drink alongside two cosmonauts in the International Space Station, Monday, May 22, 2023. AP

everyone back home. “This mission is not just for me and Rayyanah. This mission is also for the people with ambition and dreams.”

The Saudi government is picking up the multimillion-dollar tab for both of them.

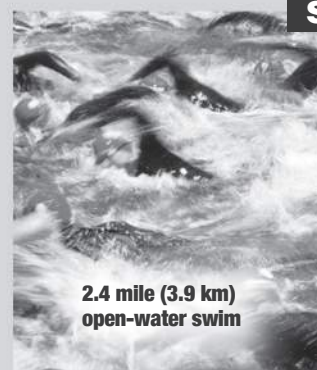
John Shoffner, a Knoxville, Tennessee, businessman who started a sports car racing team, is paying his own way. Retired NASA astronaut Peggy Whitson is their chap-

erone. She now works for Axiom Space, the Houston company that organized the 10-day trip, its second to the space station.

The company cited ticket prices of \$55 million each for last year’s private trip by three businessmen, but won’t say how much the latest seats cost.

Only one other Saudi has flown before in space, a prince who rode on NASA’s shuttle Discovery in 1985.

Science Matters



2.4 mile (3.9 km)
open-water swim



112 mile (180 km)
bicycle race



26.2 mile (42.2 km)
marathon run

Warm and cold weather ordeals

Study compared 171 athletes in famed “triathlon” races – Hawaii’s Ironman and Norway’s Norseman competitions

Runners and rules of ecology

Mammals evolved differently in warm and cold climates, and comparison of top endurance athletes suggest that their success follows the same pattern of body heat needs.

Mammals’ bodies and heat adaptation

Bergmann’s and Allen’s rules* predict how body shapes of animal species differ in various climates

*Named for Carl Bergmann and Joel Asaph Allen, 19th century biologists



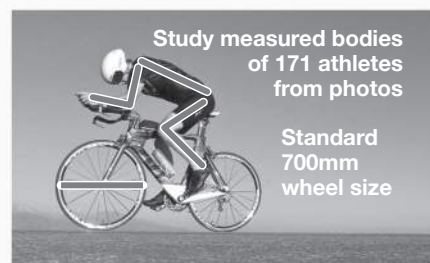
Cold climate



Hot climate

Thick, short limbs limit heat loss

Slender bodies shed heat better



Study measured bodies of 171 athletes from photos

Standard 700mm wheel size

Athletes’ performance

Taller, leaner runners with long limbs tended to excel in the warm Hawaii Ironman event; stockier, shorter ones performed better in colder Norway

© 2023 TNS

Source: Ryan Calsbook of Dartmouth; PLOS One journal; US Fish and Wildlife Service; Keenan Stears (antelope) Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Tribune News Service

Life & Style

Tina Turner, dubbed the 'Queen of Rock 'n' Roll,' dies at 83

NEW YORK (AP)—Tina Turner, the unstoppable singer and stage performer who teamed with husband Ike Turner for a dynamic run of hit records and live shows in the 1960s and '70s and survived her horrifying marriage to triumph in middle age with the chart-topping "What's Love Got to Do With It," has died at 83.

Turner died Wednesday, after a long illness in her home in Küsnacht near Zurich, according to her manager. She became a Swiss citizen a decade ago.

Few stars traveled so far—she was born Anna Mae Bullcock in a segregated Tennessee hospital and spent her latter years on a 260,000 square foot estate on Lake Zurich—and overcame so much. Physically battered, emotionally devastated and financially ruined by her 20-year relationship with Ike Turner, she became a superstar on her own in her 40s, at a time when most of her peers were on their way down, and remained a top concert draw for years after.

"How do we say farewell to a woman who owned her pain and trauma and used it as a means to help change the world?" Angela Bassett, who played Turner in the 1993 biopic "What's Love Got to Do With It," said in a statement.

"Through her courage in telling her story, her commitment to stay the course in her life, no matter the sacrifice, and her determination to carve out a space in rock and roll for herself and for others who look like her, Tina Turner showed others who lived in fear what a beautiful future filled with love, compassion, and freedom should look like.

With admirers ranging from

Mick Jagger to Beyoncé to Mariah Carey, the "Queen of Rock 'n' Roll" was one of the world's most popular entertainers, known for a core of pop, rock and rhythm and blues favorites: "Proud Mary," "Nutbush City Limits," "River Deep, Mountain High," and the hits she had in the '80s, among them "What's Love Got to Do With It," "We Don't Need Another Hero" and a cover of Al Green's "Let's Stay Together."

Her trademarks included a growling contralto that might smolder or explode, her bold smile and strong cheekbones, her palette of wigs and the muscular, quick-stepping legs she did not shy from showing off. She sold more than 150 million records worldwide, won 12 Grammys, was voted along with Ike into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1991 (and on her own in 2021) and was honored at the Kennedy Center in 2005, with Beyoncé and Oprah Winfrey among those praising her. Her life became the basis for a film, a Broadway musical and an HBO documentary in 2021 that she called her public farewell.

Until she left her husband and revealed their back story, she was known as the voracious on-stage foil of the steady-going Ike, the leading lady of the "Ike and Tina Turner Revue." Ike was billed first and ran the show, choosing the material, the arrangements, the backing singers. They toured constantly for years, in part because Ike was often short on money and unwilling to miss a concert. Tina Turner was forced to go on with bronchitis, with pneumonia, with a collapsed right lung.

Other times, the cause of her misfortunes was Ike himself.

As she recounted in her memoir, "I, Tina," Ike began hitting her not long after they met, in the mid-1950s, and only grew more vicious. Provoked by anything and anyone, he would throw hot coffee in her face, choke her, or beat her until her eyes were swollen shut, then rape her. Before one show, he broke her jaw and she went on stage with her mouth full of blood.

Terrified both of being with Ike and of lasting without him, she credited her emerging Buddhist faith in the mid-1970s with giving her a sense of strength and self-worth and she finally left in early July 1976. The Ike and Tina Turner Revue was scheduled to open a tour marking the country's bicentennial when Tina snuck out of their Dallas hotel room, with just a Mobil credit card and 36 cents, while Ike slept. She hurried across a nearby highway, narrowly avoiding a speeding truck, and found another hotel.

"I looked at him (Ike) and thought, 'You just beat me for the last time, you sucker,'" she recalled in her memoir.

Turner was among the first celebrities to speak candidly about domestic abuse, becoming a heroine to battered women and a symbol of resilience to all. Ike Turner did not deny mistreating her, although he tried to blame Tina for their troubles. When he died, in 2007, a representative for his ex-wife said simply: "Tina is aware that Ike passed away."

Ike and Tina fans knew little of this during the couple's prime. The Turners were a hot act for much of the 1960s and into the '70s, evolving from bluesy ballads such as "A Fool in Love" and "It's Going



AP
Tina Turner poses with her plaque and a bouquet of roses near her star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame during the unveiling ceremony of Aug. 28, 1986 in Los Angeles.

to Work Out Fine" to flashy covers of "Proud Mary" and "Come Together" and other rock songs that brought them crossover success.

They opened for the Rolling Stones in 1966 and 1969,

and were seen performing a lustful version of Otis Redding's "I've Been Loving You Too Long" in the 1970 Stones documentary "Gimme Shelter." Bassett and Laurence Fishburne gave Oscar-

nominated performances in "What's Love Got to Do with It," based on "I, Tina," but she would say that reliving her years with Ike was so painful she couldn't bring herself to watch the movie.

Woman obsessively monitors former rival's social media

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 45-year-old woman who has been dating "Ben" (53) for two years. We have known each other for more than 20. He treats me like a queen. Prior to our dating, he had a girlfriend he used to confide in me about. I was very jealous of her. She knew we were friends, so she made a point of posting lots of pictures of their PDAs on his social media, since we did not follow each other.

Fast-forward two years: Abby, I cannot stop obsessing over her! I think about her constantly and compare myself to her. I stalk her social media page. Ben has never given me a reason not to trust him, so why am I still bothered by her?

She has moved on and is in another relationship. How can I finally quit obsessing about her and move forward? I don't feel this way about his other exes, but for some reason, this one gets under my skin. I don't want him to find out what I have been doing. I really need help. Any advice?

INSECURE IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR INSECURE: In light of the fact that your boyfriend's ex is happily in another relationship, this obsession is really a waste of your time and energy. Although you may still feel threatened, the woman is no longer your competition. Whether your issue is insecurity or lack of self-esteem,

it's time to wake up and recognize that BEN CHOSE YOU OVER HER. If you can't accept that and relax, you may need to discuss it with a licensed psychotherapist for help to stop cyberstalking her. She may be a part of your boyfriend's past, but please do not continue making her part of your present.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: We have three grandchildren, and we feel strongly about the importance of a college education. When the first one graduated from high school, we gave him \$500 for graduation, plus an additional \$1,500 to be used for college-related expenses. He had already indicated that he was enrolling in college.

When the second one graduated, we gave him a \$500 graduation gift. Because he had committed to joining the Navy, we assured him that he would also receive \$1,500 if and when he enrolled in college. Since then, we have been accused of not respecting his career choice, showing favoritism and other accusations too numerous to list here.

Are we ogres for wanting and encouraging our grandchildren to attend college? We'd like your opinion.

WELL-MEANING IN THE WEST

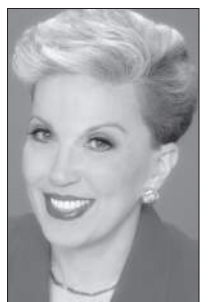
■ ■ ■

DEAR WELL-MEANING: Your mistake has been not

DEAR ABBY

BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



taking into consideration that your grandchildren are individuals. Your second grandson is likely to find his career path as part of his military service. One could argue that you are favoring the grandchild who is following the career path you are biased toward, and from that perspective, it does appear you are playing favorites. You may want to rethink what you are doing. Your Navy-bound grandson may have a need for that money at some point.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

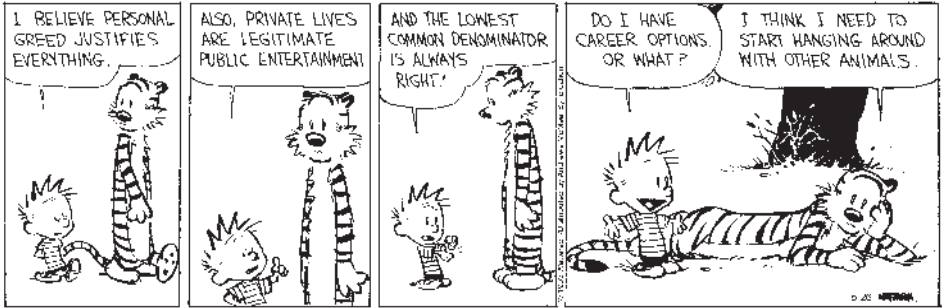
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Spigot

4 Boom times

7 Innocents

12 Genetic letters

13 "No seats"

14 "Suds in the Bucket" singer Sara

15 Bit of physics

16 Ice cream variety

18 LPs' successors

19 Leonine greetings

20 Piano pieces?

22 Swing to and —

23 Burden

27 MGM motto start

29 Plod

31 Trans-mits

34 Poet Nash

35 Papeete's island

DOWN

1 Ruse

2 Battery part

3 Spring bloom

4 Cold War initials

5 Checks for typos

6 To date

7 First lady Truman

8 "Hail!"

9 Tavern

10 Ltr. holder

11 Away from

17 Jog

21 —

23 Olympic sleds

24 Peculiar

25 Candle count

26 Cornfy room

28 Letters after Q

30 Kanga's kid

31 Pigs' digs

32 — Claire, WI

33 Stanley Cup org.

36 Caucus state

37 Married

40 Tightly packed

42 Gladden

43 Noble gas

44 Toys on strings

45 "Shoo!"

46 Checks out

48 Center

49 Pub pint

50 ACLU issues

51 Dad on "Black-ish"

Solution time: 25 mins.

S	N	L	B	A	M	A	P	A	W	N
I	P	O	E	V	A	N	A	S	I	A
A	R	B	O	R	I	S	T	N	A	P
B	A	T	S	E	R	A	P	E	S	
S	C	Y	T	H	E	S	E	C		
A	H	I	S	L	Y	D	E	S	I	S
H	E	S	I	K	A	I	A	U	R	A
A	T	T	I	C	M	U	M	D	I	N
F	E	R	T	O	P	D	O	G		
C	O	N	C	E	A	L	N	A	H	
E	V	E	L	F	I	N	A	L	I	S
L	E	V	I	T	R	O	D	S	U	B
S	N	A	P	S	A	W	S	T	R	A

Yesterday's answer 5-26

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Helena Bonham Carter, 57; Lenny Kravitz, 59; Pam Grier, 74; Stevie Nicks, 75.

Happy Birthday: Put your energy where it counts and restore your faith in yourself and your long-term plans. Rest assured that taking a minimalistic approach to money, possessions and lifestyle will pay off and give you added energy and a less stressful life. Eliminating what's no longer necessary to you will free up time to enjoy what life offers. Simplicity is the key to your success. Your numbers are 3, 10, 21, 26, 30, 35, 48.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Get involved in something that moves you. Volunteer your skills or time; you'll make a difference and meet people who inspire you to make budget-friendly lifestyle changes. Make plans with someone who enjoys a physical challenge and having fun. ★★★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Be responsible. Don't do anything to jeopardize your position, health or financial well-being. Update your appearance or lifestyle to fit your age and expectations. Make sure your motives are valid before you start something new. Romance will improve your personal life. ★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Choose a path that offers something that motivates you. Listen to suggestions and decide what's best for you. Weigh the pros and cons, stick to a budget you can afford and push your way forward. Don't let emotions dictate the outcome. ★★★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Thinking ahead and taking extraordinary measures to how you use your skills, knowledge and

experience will help drum up interest. Refuse to let anyone take you for granted using emotional manipulation. A change of heart will give you space to find happiness. ★★★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Work alone, and you'll get things done correctly. Expect others to interfere with your plans or try to take over if you are too easygoing. Keep a low profile where you will be left to your own devices and able to reach your expectations. ★★★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Ask an expert; you'll surpass your potential. The detail you add will put you in a good position. You'll receive information that can change your life and how you help others. Don't stop until you are happy with the results. ★★★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Offer suggestions, not hands-on help. Your time is valuable and is best spent on something that will benefit you. Make domestic changes conducive to expanding your interests. Focus on cost-effective plans. ★★★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): A professional change will take you in a different direction. Press forward alone. Don't waste time arguing with someone who can't grasp your vision. Surround yourself with people who complement your plans, want to help you succeed and have something to contribute. ★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Bypass anything or anyone distracting you. Concentrate on what you can do at a price you can afford. Weigh the pros and cons, then contact people who can verify the information and let you know what's possible before you begin. ★★★★★

EUGENIA LAST
THE LAST WORD
IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Alter your surroundings to meet your demands. Confirm what's possible and get things started. Surprise someone you love with a thoughtful word, act or gift. How you deal with others will make them realize how you want them to treat you in return. ★★★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Forge ahead until you are happy with the results. Leave no room for criticism or for someone to step in and make you look bad. Challenge yourself to get fit and live a healthier lifestyle. Leave nothing to chance. ★★★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Consider how to upgrade and use your skills to bring in more money. A trendy look will grab attention and make you feel more like socializing. Romance or a new friendship will lift your spirits. ★★★★★

Birthday Baby: You are assertive, caring and helpful. You are curious and disciplined.

★: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ★★: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ★★★: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ★★★★★: Aim high; start new projects. ★★★★★: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

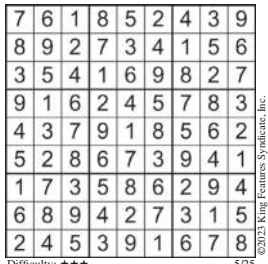
By Dave Green



Difficulty: ★★★★★ 5/26
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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer



Difficulty: ★★★ 5/25
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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

BEING A PROPONENT

Solution: 9 letters

C I N T E R P R E T A T I O N
A O C O N V I N C E L I K E M
U J U D G E D E S I G N V A A
S H A R E J M E S U P I N H E
E W R I T E U N B E T A B O T
T T S E G G U S R A G S R N E
N I A L P X E S T R E T O C O N
A G E N C Y P N R I V E L O R T
R A R I A E E K S A F O A E H
U C B E C S O P F U E Y G V U
A T D T E O E T R O P S E I S
T I I R L A C I L B U P L E I
S V P T K E C A L P K R O W A
E E U G R A D V O C A T E R S
R O S N O P S S T A T E M E N T

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Active, Advocate, Agency, Argue, Cause, Convince, Court, Debate, Design, Enthusiast, Explain, Favor, Government, Honor, Idea, Interpretation, Judge, Justify, Legal, Like, Manager, Outlook, Perspective, Public, Representative, Restaurant, Review, Share, Speak, Sponsor, Sport, Statement, Suggest, Support, Team, Workplace, Write
Yesterday's Answer: Belief

The NEW Volume 70 can be purchased online at
www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

Phillies erase 5-run deficit, beat D-backs in 10 innings

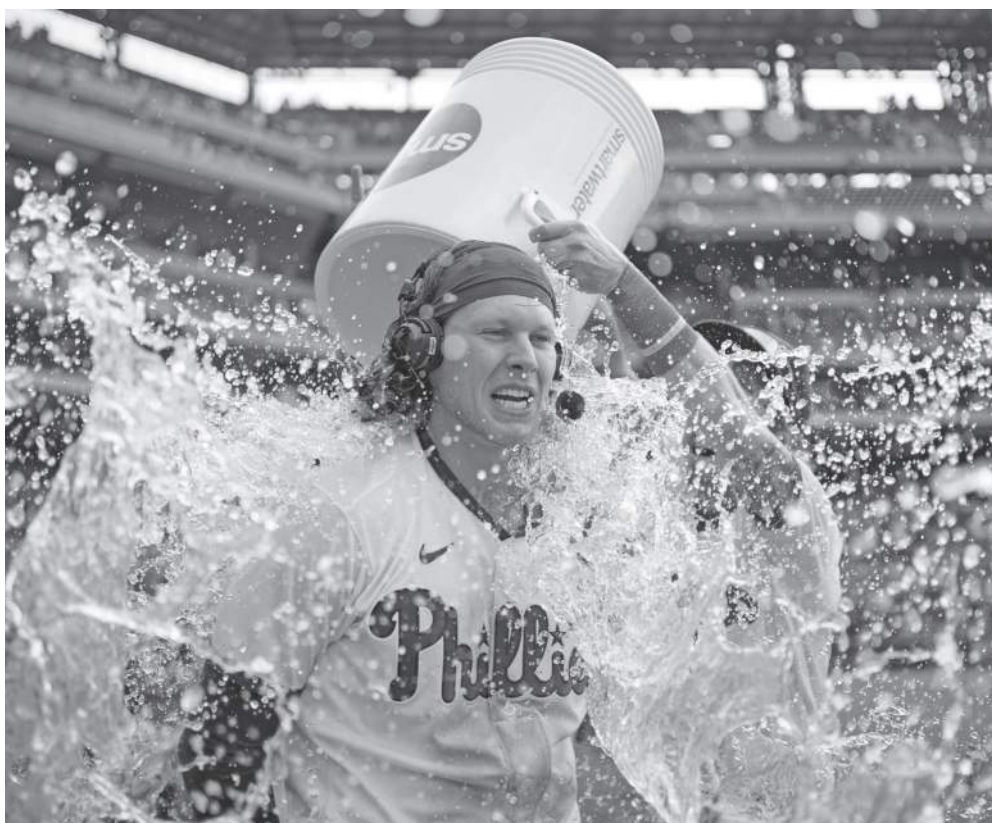
PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Trea Turner

tied the game with a two-run homer in the ninth inning and Alec Bohm hit the winning single in the 10th to rally the Philadelphia Phillies from five runs down in a 6-5 win over the Arizona Diamondbacks on Wednesday.

Turner delivered his first highlight-reel hit for the Phillies when he connected to left field off reliever Jose Ruiz (1-1) with two outs, tying the game at 5.

Bryson Stott hit a two-out single to center off Ruiz in the ninth that set the stage for Turner to deliver on his biggest blast for his new team.

Ruiz stayed in the game for the 10th and walked two to load the bases with the automatic runner. Bohm lofted one to right that landed on the warning track and scored Dalton Guthrie, helping the Phillies avoid a three-game sweep.



Philadelphia Phillies' Alec Bohm is doused after he hit a game-winning RBI-single against Arizona Diamondbacks relief pitcher Jose Ruiz during the tenth inning of a baseball game, Wednesday, May 24, 2023, in Philadelphia.

ORIOLES 9, YANKEES 6

NEW YORK (AP)—Adam Frazier hit a three-run homer and pinch-hitter Gunnar Henderson had a go-ahead, two-run double in an eight-run seventh inning as Baltimore rallied and stopped New York's season-high winning streak at five games.

Baltimore sent 12 batters to the plate in the seventh against Nestor Cortes and the bullpen. It was the Orioles' highest-scoring inning this season in a game that started after a 1-hour, 36-minute rain delay.

Ryan Mountcastle homered in the fourth inning, and Anthony Santander and Austin Hays had hit RBI singles in the seventh for the Orioles.

New York's Gleyber Torres hit a two-run homer in the third and a solo drive in the fifth, giving him nine homers this season and 14 career multi-homer games. Isiah Kiner-Falefa tripled and homered for the Yankees.

BREWERS 4, ASTROS 0

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Adrian Houser allowed two hits in 5 1/3 scoreless innings and Milwaukee homered three times in its win over Houston.

Willy Adames hit a two-run blast in the first inning to put the Brewers ahead for good. Owen Miller and Brian Anderson added solo shots in the seventh.

The Astros mustered four hits, two off their season low and went scoreless in the last two games of the series.

Houser struck out three and walked one in his fourth appearance of the season, which followed six shutout innings in a 1-0 loss at Tampa Bay.

CUBS 4, METS 2

CHICAGO (AP)—Marcus Stroman had his longest outing of the season, pitching eight efficient innings in Chicago's win over New York.

Nico Hoerner homered in Chicago's second straight victory since coming home after a 2-7 trip. Seiya Suzuki also drove in a run with a double off Japanese countryman Kodai Senga.

Stroman (4-4) threw just 88 pitches, 59 for strikes. The right-hander allowed four hits, struck out three and walked two. Mark Leiter Jr. worked a 1-2-3 ninth for his second save.

Francisco Alvarez hit a two-run shot in the third, but that was it for the Mets. Senga (4-3) labored through five innings for New York, allowing three runs and six hits.

BRAVES 4, DODGERS 3

ATLANTA (AP)—Ozzie Albies' sacrifice fly drove in Austin Riley in the bottom of the ninth and Atlanta avoided a three-game sweep against Los Angeles.

Austin Riley doubled to left field off Phil Bickford (1-2) to lead off the ninth. Riley moved to third on Travis d'Arnaud's grounder to first. Following an intentional walk to Eddie Rosario, Albies' fly to deep right field allowed Riley to score easily.

Dodgers right-hander Tony Gonsolin's 14-inning streak of scoreless innings ended with Matt Olson's 456-foot home run with one out in the fourth inning for Atlanta's first hit. Gonsolin allowed three runs on three hits, including two homers, in 5 2/3 innings.

Mookie Betts answered with a line-drive homer, his

11th, which tied the game at 1 to open the fifth inning. Marcell Ozuna's two-run shot to left field in the fifth followed Gonsolin's walk to Albies.

Raisel Iglesias (1-1) earned the win.

TWINS 7, GIANTS 1

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Edouard Julien returned to the leadoff spot and hit a home run, drove in two runs and scored twice as Minnesota snapped a three-game skid with a win over San Francisco.

Joe Ryan (7-1) gave up six hits, struck out four and allowed a run in five innings. Four relievers finished up in a game in which San Francisco left 15 runners on base and went 2 for 16 with runners in scoring position.

Julien went 1 for 3 as a slew of injuries forced manager Rocco Baldelli to juggle his lineup more than normal.

Three of the Twins' seven runs came off Giants starter Anthony DeSclafani (3-4) in five innings were unearned. The 33-year-old right-hander was the victim of three errors and hit a batter who came around to score.

RANGERS 3, PIRATES 2

PITTSBURGH (AP)—Martín Pérez pitched seven strong innings, Marcus Semien hit the 16th leadoff homer of his career and Texas held off Pittsburgh to win for the fifth time in six games and move 13 games over .500 for the first time since the end of the 2016 season.

Pérez (6-1) allowed two runs on six hits with two walks and three strikeouts to win his fifth straight decision. The 32-year-old left-hander inducing 12 ground-

ball outs, including a pair of inning-ending double plays. Will Smith earned his ninth save.

Semien hit the second pitch of the game from Johan Oviedo (3-4) for his eighth home run of the season. Josh Jung and Nathaniel Lowe had two hits each for Texas.

Rodolfo Castro and Jason Delay had two of Pittsburgh's eight hits.

WHITE SOX 6, GUARDIANS 0

CLEVELAND (AP)—Michael Kopech struck out nine and allowed two hits over seven dominant innings, Romy González had a two-run double and Chicago dealt Cleveland its sixth shutout loss.

Kopech (3-4) did not allow a baserunner until Josh Naylor singled leading off the fifth. The right-hander walked one and extended his shutout streak to 15 innings in his last two outings. Reynaldo López and Jimmy Lambert wrapped up the combined four-hitter.

Andrés Giménez had the Guardians' other hit off Kopech.

RAYS 7, BLUE JAYS 3

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP)—Shane Bieber became the first eight-game winner in the majors and Tampa Bay rebounded from a 19-run loss to beat Toronto.

McClanahan (8-0) allowed one run, four hits and struck out seven in seven innings. Tampa Bay is 10-1 when the left-hander takes the mound.

Luke Raley and Jose Siri hit solo homers off Yusei Kikuchi (5-2) in the second inning. The major league-best Rays (36-15) lead the big leagues with 97 homers.

REDS 10, CARDINALS 3

CINCINNATI (AP)—Ben Lively earned his first victory as a starter since 2017, Kevin Newman drove in three runs and Cincinnati had its highest hit total in almost a year in a win over St. Louis.

Rookie shortstop Matt McClain hit the second homer of his big league career and Spencer Steer had a career-best four hits with two RBIs for Cincinnati, which pounded out 18 hits, the team's highest total since posting 20 against the Chicago Cubs last May 26.

Lively (2-2) last won as a starter came as a member of the Phillies on Sept. 29, 2017, against the Mets. The 31-year-old right-hander worked six innings, allowing five hits and two walks while striking out eight.

NATIONALS 5, PADRES 3

WASHINGTON (AP)—Alex Call had a two-run double in Washington's four-run second inning and the Nationals held off San Diego.

Call also singled to help the rebuilding Nationals improve to 11-11 in May and 21-28 overall.

Washington starter Trevor Williams (2-2) went 5 2/3 innings. Carl Edwards Jr. and Hunter Harvey combined for 2 1/3 scoreless innings and Kyle Finnegan worked a perfect ninth for his 10th save. They held the Padres to four hits.

Keibert Ruiz singled in the first run in the second, and Luis Garcia had a sacrifice fly to close the scoring spree.

TIGERS 6, ROYALS 4

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—Pinch-hitter Zack Short hit a three-run homer to lead Detroit over Kansas City.

Riley Greene also homered, doubled and scored twice for the Tigers in the game that was delayed 29 minutes by rain.

Greene led off the sixth with a double and went to third on an infield single by Matt Vierling. Short drove them both home with the first pinch-hit home run of his career, a 416-foot shot to left field off Josh Taylor (1-2).

Will Vest (1-0) retired all four hitters he faced, striking out two. Alex Lange picked up his ninth save in 10 tries.

MARINERS 6, ATHLETICS 1

SEATTLE (AP)—Bryce Miller limited Oakland to two hits over six shutout innings to continue his spectacular early success, and Seattle used a big fourth inning to beat the Athletics.

Miller (3-1) has pitched at least six innings in each of his five starts. He's allowed just two hits in three of the five outings and has allowed four earned runs in 31 1/3 innings. He's the first pitcher since at least 1901 to throw at least six innings and allow four or fewer hits in each of his first five appearances.

Miller allowed only four baserunners to go with six strikeouts. Aledmys Díaz's single in the third inning was Oakland's first hit and Ryan Noda's check swing bloop in the sixth parachuted into the outfield for a single. Miller also walked one and hit a batter.

ANGELS 7, RED SOX 3

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)—Shohei Ohtani and Mike Trout homered in the same game for the 26th time, leading Los Angeles to its fourth straight win and a sweep of Boston.

Rookie Zach Neto hit a three-run homer during the Angels' four-run second inning and added a double in his first three-hit game for Los Angeles, which has won six of seven overall.

The Angels' MVP duo came through in the early innings. Ohtani connected in the third for his team-leading 12th homer of the season, taking James Paxton (1-1) to the opposite field with his fourth shot in 10 days. Trout followed in the fourth with a two-run shot off Nick Pivetta, matching Ohtani's season total with his fourth homer in seven days.

MARLINS 10, ROCKIES 2

DENVER (AP)—Yuli Gurriel had four hits, Sandy Alcantara (2-5) struck out three and limited Colorado to two runs in six innings and Miami snapped a three-game losing streak.

Major league hitting leader Luis Arraez doubled in two runs in a three-run fifth inning that gave the Marlins a 5-1 lead. Jonathan Davis was 3 for 4 with a solo homer a day after being called up from Triple-A Jacksonville. Jorge Soler hit his team-leading 14th home run of the season and Jacob Stallings had two doubles and an RBI.

In his second career MLB start, Rockies right-hander Karl Kauffmann (0-2) gave up five earned runs and six hits in 4 1/3 innings, with all five runs and five of the six hits coming in his final 1 1/3 innings. Elias Diaz homered and Jurickson Profar extended his on-base streak to 32 games, the longest active streak in the majors.

Nuggets make Denver hoops town with 1st trip to NBA Finals



DENVER (AP)—It took 3,787 regular-season games and 29 trips to the playoffs, countless ripoffs of rainbow uniforms and even more ‘yeah, but’s’ than any city should have to stomach. Finally, 47 seasons into an entertaining, often frustrating and almost always overlooked journey in the NBA, Denver is at the center of the basketball world.

The Nuggets—yes, those sometimes-lovable and often-forgettable Nuggets—are in the NBA Finals.

The way they made it says everything about their near half-century in the league, and just how different this team is from every Denver team, even the really good ones, that preceded it.

The Nuggets brushed aside their long-held irrelevance by completing their first sweep in 44 NBA playoff series. They did it against the Los Angeles Lakers, the team that has caused them so much of their pain. Before the Western Conference finals, Denver was 0-7 in playoff series against the Lakers. Now, Denver is 1-7.

“It’s almost like shock a little bit,” Nuggets forward Aaron Gordon said, echoing a sentiment certainly being felt across the franchise’s long-suffering fan base. “You’re just like unsure, like, are you sure we don’t



Denver Nuggets center Nikola Jokic (15) celebrates after Los Angeles Lakers forward LeBron James, center, missed a layup attempt as time expired in the second half of Game 4 of the NBA basketball Western Conference Final series Monday, May 22, 2023, in Los Angeles.

have more time on the clock? Are you sure we don’t have another quarter to play or another game to play?”

With all due respect to Dan Issel, Alex English, Carmelo Anthony and everyone else who ever wore rainbows, Nikola Jokic is the best player to put on a Denver uniform. He recorded

his eighth triple-double of the playoffs in Monday night’s 113-111 win over LA, surpassing a record for a single postseason held by none other than Lakers great Wilt Chamberlain.

Jokic, who was 0.2 assists short of averaging a triple-double this season, got beat out for his third straight MVP this

season by Philly’s Joel Embiid. Fans see it all as par for the course in a city where the team that debuted in the ABA as the Denver Rockets — not the better-known, better-respected Denver Broncos — really put the town on the national sports map. That was in 1967. The Broncos were still a laughingstock but the local basketball team put out a good product right away.

It was good enough to make the Nuggets a no-brainer when the ABA folded in 1976 and the NBA went picking through the wreckage to invite a few teams to join.

Between then and now, the city has seen its share of the spotlight. John Elway brought two Super Bowl titles home and Peyton Manning another. The Colorado Avalanche, who share a home (Ball Arena) and an owner (Stan Kroenke) with the Nuggets, have won hockey’s Stanley Cup three times, including last year. Even the

Colorado Rockies have been to the World Series. The Nuggets only trip this close to the title came in 1976 when they lost in the last ABA final to Julius Erving and the Nets.

David Thompson; Larry Brown; Doug Moe; English; Issel; Anthony; George Karl; Allen Iverson; Chauncey Billups. All those coaches and players spent time in Denver. None ever got too close to that NBA title trophy while here. Before this week, Denver made the NBA conference finals four times, and lost all four.

It conspired to make the place little more than flyover territory — a city with high altitude that the schedule makers often tuck into other teams’ itineraries as part of long road trips with more exciting final destinations — LA, New York, Miami.

But Denver? It was a great place to take a night off — or, put more diplomatically, for teams to exercise the 21st-

century NBA practice of “load management” for their best players.

While NBA titles, and the fanfare that comes with them, have been built on the shoulders of megastars for decades, the Nuggets never were part of that scene.

In fact, Jokic was the exact opposite of that when he arrived in 2014. Rather, he was a doughty second-round draft pick known only to the insiders who followed the Serbian hoops scene.

“Everybody gets cracked up into his stats but I don’t think a lot of people talk about, like, this part of his game,” LeBron James of the Lakers said after the sweep, as he pointed toward his head, indicating Jokic’s mastery of the cerebral part of hoops. “Maybe it’s not talked about it, because a lot of people don’t understand it, but I do. He’s special.”

Great as Jokic has been, it’s the addition of another under-the-radar player, guard Jamal Murray, and his return to full health that helped get this team over the top.

Murray was a lottery pick out of Kentucky in 2016, the year Ben Simmons was the top pick and considered the NBA’s Next Big Thing. Murray blew up in the bubble during COVID, bringing Denver within a series of the finals, only to see the Lakers snuff out another season. He missed the next two playoffs due to a devastating knee injury. These playoffs, Murray is feeling great. He averaged 32.5 points in the four-game sweep of LA.

“I think our chemistry is at an all-time high, the way we play, the way we read the game without even speaking,” Murray said. “We talk that language on the court.”

“It’s just beautiful basketball, honestly.”

With the Nuggets in their first NBA Finals after all these years, it will be hard to find anyone in Denver who would argue with that.

Still down 3-1 to Heat, Celtics cling to hope as East finals shift back to Boston

BOSTON (AP)—The Boston Celtics’ season didn’t end in Game 4 of their Eastern Conference finals matchup with the Miami Heat, and now there is a flicker of hope.

Whether Boston’s 116-99 victory on Tuesday night was the start of a miraculous revival or simply a momentary reprieve from what NBA history suggests is still inevitable remains to be determined.

At the very least, the Celtics’ win made their chances of becoming the first NBA team in 151 tries to overcome a 3-0 deficit in a best-of-seven series move from insurmountable to iffy heading into Game 5 at TD Garden on Thursday.

That’s good for a team that had spent most of this series looking nothing like the one that earned the conference’s second seed.

“We’ve just got to go win another one. That’s all that matters,” Celtics guard Marcus Smart said. “We take it one game at a time. We understand the odds are stacked against us, but we’re a team that believes in us no matter what, and we’ve just got to keep going, and all that matters is the next game.”

So much of what made the Celtics one of the league’s top scoring and defensive teams during the regular season was eviscerated in three straight losses to Miami to open the series.

The Heat befuddled Boston in those games. It took away top scoring threats Jayson Tatum and Jaylen Brown, while outshooting a Celtics team that usually has demolished opponents at the 3-point line.

Boston showed acumen on both ends in Game 4, rallying during a game-changing 18-0 run in the third quarter. Led by Tatum’s 33 points, 11 rebounds and seven assists, the Celtics outscored the Heat by 30 points from beyond the arc and turned Miami’s 16 turnovers into 27 points.

It also gave the Celtics a blueprint going forward.

“We’ve still got a long uphill battle to go,” Tatum said.

While the win gave the Celtics a little life, the Heat can blame themselves for not finishing. The game was close for three quarters and Miami still just needs to win one of the final three games to make it back to the NBA Finals for the first time since its run in 2020 in

the Florida bubble. Denver is waiting to play the winner after sweeping the Lakers.

Boston won three times on the Heat’s home floor last year in the East finals. With a win on Thursday, Miami would accomplish the same feat on Boston’s floor this year.

The Celtics are 4-5 at home this postseason.

Heat star Jimmy Butler said he isn’t worried about Boston’s first win giving it momentum heading home.

“No. If anything, it will build momentum for us knowing that we have to play with a lot more energy,” Butler said. “We’ve got to play like our backs are against the wall. But I think all year long, we’ve been better when we’ve had to do things the hard way.”

The Heat are preparing for Game 5 with two key players on the mend.

Gabe Vincent, who has been a sparkplug through the series and had 17 points in Game 4, left the game in the fourth quarter after turning his left ankle.

Kyle Lowry also took an awkward fall, leaving the condition of Miami’s point guards up in the air.

Ja Morant is 'fine,' taking a social media break

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)—Police in Tennessee conducted a welfare check Wednesday on suspended Memphis Grizzlies guard Ja Morant and say “he is fine” after cryptic messages appeared on his Instagram account and were later deleted.

The post from earlier Wednesday included messages and pictures saying “Love ya ma,” “Love ya pops” and “You da greatest babygirl love ya.” A fourth message simply read: “Bye.”

Shelby County Sheriff’s Office spokesman John Morris told The Associated

Press in a phone call that deputies checked on Morant at his home Wednesday morning.

“He advised us that he is taking a break from social media,” Morris said.

Morant, 23, was suspended from all team activities following a video of him holding a gun that circulated May 13 on social media. The video was the two-time All-Star’s second display of a firearm within three months in a social media video.

The first video cost Morant an eight-game suspension and about \$669,000 in

forfeited salary in March. The second could be much more expensive with his five-year, \$194 million max contract set to begin this coming season.

The video captured May 13 and widely shared online was streamed by an associate of Morant and showed him holding what appeared to be a gun as he sat in the passenger seat of a vehicle. The first video showed him flashing a gun in a strip club.

The Grizzlies suspended Morant from team activities on May 14, pending the league’s investigation.

Blue Jays, Bears route opponents in SBL

By LEIGH GASES

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REPORTER



Blue Jays and Bears routed their opponents in the Tan Holdings-Saipan Baseball League 2023 during their games last Friday and Thursday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field.

The Blue Jays found their swing and posted 11 against the Natives' 2 runs last Friday, while the Bears blanked the Braves, 2-0 last Thursday.

James Salalila of the Blue Jays showed off his wheels after he stole second and third base then eventually came home for the first run of the game in the first inning.

By the second inning, Natives pitcher Chris Meyers could not locate the strike zone and walked the lead off batter, gave up a base hit to the next batter, then walked the third batter too.

His defense failed him too as they caused errors and allowed them all to score after two more singles were made



LEIGH GASES

In this file photo, Blue Jays shortstop tags a Junior Nationals player but doesn't get the out during one of their games in the Tan Holdings-Saipan Baseball League 2023 at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field.

by Alden Ngeskebei and Jobe Reyes.

The Blue Jays kept ringing in runs and capitalized on the Natives' shoddy defense. The four runs that scored got on base due to Natives' errors in the third inning. At this point in the game, the Blue Jays were up by 8 as the Natives scrounged up two runs in the second and third.

That was all the Natives could do because Blue Jays

pitcher Kevin Kapileo was dominant on the mound. He struck out nine batters and had only five hits against him.

The Blue Jays offense put up one more run in the last inning and it was more than enough to get the W as the Natives fell short.

The Bears and Brewers game was a low-scoring game as both teams struggled at the plate.

One run came in the second

inning from an RBI single by Angel Palacios who brought in Henry Lizama. Josiah Lizama in the third inning was hit by a pitch and was then brought home by the next batter who got on base off a fielding error.

The Brewers on the other hand, went down like flies as the Bears pitching staff pitched four 1-2-3 out innings. Only three hits were allowed as they struck out nine batters.

Run Saipan Mangrove 5K '23 race tomorrow

By LEIGH GASES

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REPORTER



The show must go on after the storm has passed and so the race shall too as the Run Saipan Mangrove 5K '23 is still set for tomorrow, May 27, at 6am.

The course is along the scenic route of American Memorial Park to the Marina, then the Gov. Eloy Inos Peace Park and back—strictly within the park pathway.

Run Saipan president Edward Dela Cruz Jr. said "The 5K is still a go. We are still co-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Participants of the first Mangrove 5K last 2021 are seen running out of the starting line.

ordinating with IT&E and One Time for the timing system to be ready for this weekend."

On the course viability after the storm, he said "The course will be good for this weekend. My team and I will be going

out tomorrow to the park to see what we need to do. I have four other contingent race routes around the park if need be. I always have contingencies."

He added, "The race must go! Our schedule is very tight

in June with having the Grotto 10K, Oceania Cup, and the Oceania Masters Champs going on. The mangrove 5K is one of our original Run Saipan races, we will not cancel or postpone it regardless if there is a low turnout this weekend."

The race fee is \$5 for Run Saipan members and \$10 for non-members.

To register, click on this link <https://raceroster.com/events/2023/70406/mangrove-5k-23>

Winner of the men's division in the 2022 edition was Kosuke Sato with a time of 19:36 and Akiko Miller finished first in the women's division with a time of 21:02.

PAMINTUAN

From Page 24

day by running 3.65 miles.

Dela Cruz said Pamintuan joins nine registered streakers under Run Saipan, name-

ly himself, Dr. Ron Snyder, Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero, Ali Nelson, Frank Nawaaz, Simon Necesito, J.C. Cadua, Angel San Nicolas, and Ken Abat of Guam.

"I'm proud of him. He's one of the guys I've been

coaching and training. I noticed he was running everyday and said he might as well ride it all the way through. It wasn't until way later he mentioned he did stick with it," said Dela Cruz of Pamintuan.

TOKAHAO

From Page 24

lagomez hit a three RBI home run in the second, followed by a double by Bruce Norita who was brought home by Manny Villagomez' base hit.

Momma Charo finally put one on the scoreboard in the third inning but just one—and just one more in the fourth for a seven run Tokahao lead.

Two runs in the fifth, then three more in the sixth were made by Momma Charo

on a series of RBI singles by Shawn Fitial, Benji Tagabuel, and Joe Kapileo.

Momma Charo was now just down by two runs, 7-9, but only scored two more in their last at bat and Tokahao slipped away with the win as they put up one more run, 10-9.

Asahi rallied against Hagu La'mun in the last innings as Hagu La'mun scored eight runs in the first inning.

Asahi managed to catch up because Hagu La'mun failed to add more runs in the next four innings while Asahi

made strong and accurate bat to ball contact. Asahi's Allen Teliu hit a three-run home run in the third and Dom Hideo followed suit in the fourth inning.

By the sixth inning, Hagu La'mun only led Asahi by one run, 11-10, when Hagu La'mun added three more in their last at-bat for good measure. However, Asahi came from behind in the bottom of the last inning and scored five runs off well hit singles and an assist off a fielding error by Hagu La'mun.

Peleliu managed to hold

off Aimeliik 1 Time's last-ditch effort in the last inning as Aimeliik almost went home with the win when they led by one, 12-11.

However, Peleliu's offense came in clutch in their last at-bat and punched in the two winning runs after a single by Rey Matagolai and a double by Mark Flores.

Tuturamz 12, Wazzup 9

Tuturamz finally snagged a win after they outscored Wazzup, 12-9.

Mike Techur hit a home-run and had five RBIs in the

Chamber golf tourney postponed to June 17



The Saipan Chamber of Commerce would like to inform the community of the new date for its highly anticipated 14th Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament.

Due to the weather conditions associated with Typhoon Mawar and other logistical matters, the tournament has been postponed to June 17, 2023. The event will still take place at the beautiful LaoLao Bay Golf and Resort, west course, with showtime at 6am and shotgun at 7am.

The SCC two-person scramble annual golf tournament is an annual fundraising event that provides crucial financial support for the Saipan Chamber Scholarship Program, benefiting local students pursuing higher education and contributing to our community. It serves as a means to provide financial support to college and trade students who face financial shortfalls, enabling them to pursue their educational goals.

In the Chamber's last scholarship program, they proudly awarded 17 students from the Northern Marianas College and the Northern Marianas Technical Institute. This year, their focus extends beyond community college and trade education to include support for higher education in the Maritime trade.

The Chamber is committed to being a catalyst for change and development in our youth, who are the CNMI's future leaders. None of this would be possible without the unwavering support of Chamber members, sponsors, players, and volunteers. On behalf of the Chamber Board of Directors and Executives team, the Chamber extends its deepest thanks and gratitude to all those who make it possible for the Chamber to support the youth and community.

The Chamber is also thrilled to announce an extension of the player registration deadline to May 31, 2023. Don't miss

out on the opportunity to play golf, network, meet new people, and support a great cause all at once. Register today to secure your spot. You may find a copy of our registration form on the Chamber's website homepage, www.saipanchamber.com. Alternatively, you can visit our office conveniently located in the Marianas Business Plaza, 2nd Floor, Suite 201-A, where the Chamber's friendly team members will be happy to assist you.

Golfers of all skill levels will have the chance to compete for incredible cash prizes. The team gross and team double peoria categories offer prizes of \$800 for first place, \$650 for second place, and \$500 for third place. Optional play contests provide additional opportunities to win \$150 in cash prizes per contest. Golfers will also receive complimentary swag bags courtesy of Chamber members, as well as on-course snacks and refreshments.

After the tournament, participants can enjoy post-tournament refreshments and celebrate their accomplishments.

The registration fee for each team is \$280. In addition, tickets for amazing raffle prizes will be available for purchase during registration and throughout the tournament.

Registration forms for players can be downloaded from our website, www.saipanchamber.com, or obtained from the front desk of LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort. Forms are also available at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce Office, located at the Marianas Business Plaza, 2nd Floor, Suite 201-A.

The Chamber encourages golfers to submit their forms and fees before May 31 at the Chamber Office to streamline the day-of check-in process.

The Chamber expresses its sincere gratitude to everyone who has made this event a success over the past 14 years, you all assist us in providing opportunities for the youth which in turn provides opportunities for our community. (PR)

She also recently ranked up to a brown belt last April 15.

"It was unexpected and I happily received it. With a new rank, I can now compete in higher ranking divisions, which have advanced rule sets. It opens up more techniques

and positions that I can use. It's a new game but I'm very well prepared from the practice in my academy. Now I can sign up for the brown belt division and start collecting points in IBJJF (international Brazilian jiu-jitsu federation) ranking," she said.

CRUZ

From Page 24

Jiu Jitsu IBJJF Championship 2023 that will be held in Long Beach, California from May 31 to June 4.

NMISF Development Meet



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
From left, Leo Li, Gabriel Walsh, and Yoon Min Cho placed first, second, and third in the Mixed U8 Tetrathon of the Northern Mariana Islands Swimming Federation Development Meet held last Saturday at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan lap pool.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
From left, Catalina Frink, Shana Barman, and Sera Guerrero finished 1-2-3 in the Mixed 9-10 Tetrathon of the NMISF Development Meet.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
From left, Sari Barman, Maria Guerrero, and Hao Yang Song finished 1-2-3 in the Mixed 11-12 Tetrathon of the NMISF Development Meet.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
From left, Moshe Sikkell, Michael Miller, and Justin Ma finished 1-2-3 in the Mixed 13-14 Tetrathon of the NMISF Development Meet.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Xing Yu Wang after the 25-yard kick of the NMISF Development Meet.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
A total of 43 Tsunami Saipan Swimming Center and Saipan Swim Club members took part in the NMISF Development Meet.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Vince Seman Jr. after the 25-yard kick of the NMISF Development Meet.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Sebin Chung, left, and Jonathan Zhang in action in the 25-yard kick of the NMISF Development Meet.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
From above, Xing Chen Wang, Simon Shindo, and Gabriel Cariasio in action in the Mixed 9-10 50-yard butterfly.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
From right, Shuro Barman, Aileen Kim, and Yoon Min Cho at the start of their Mixed 9-10 50-yard freestyle.



Phillies erase
5-run deficit, beat
D-backs in 10
innings.
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24 FRIDAY, MAY 26, 2023

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Pamintuan is latest streak runner



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Aaron Pamintuan poses
after completing his one-
year run streak at the
American Memorial Park
last May 4.

By **MARK RABAGO**
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Aaron Pamintuan has successfully barged into the door and joined the list of local run streakers after running at least a mile a day for a year last May 4.

The 26-year-old Latte Gym personal trainer said he was already running almost everyday as part of his physical fitness regimen so why not complete a 265-day streak.

"I wanted to challenge myself. I hated running, but I knew I needed cardio in my life and what better way to do it than to run," he said.

Like other streakers before him, Pamintuan said the hardest part of the streak was just keeping yourself motivated to run every single day for an entire year.

"Life can get very busy and times occur when I don't even want to run. It was finding the time and energy to do it. I was determined to complete it and keep it. Whatever the circumstance

I was going to run regardless," said the Liberal Arts Emphasis on Physical Education and Health graduate of Northern Marianas College.

What made Pamintuan's streak more special is he usually runs during mid-day or the afternoon, when Saipan's sun is at its harshest.

As far as the longest run of his streak, Pamintuan said it was when he completed a marathon and the shortest are his usual 1-milers.

"I decided to do this streak for myself. I started and finished it by myself. I dedicate

this to me," he said when asked who he's dedicating the streak to.

Pamintuan also has no plans of retiring the streak anytime soon.

"The streak is still alive. I don't see it ending anytime soon.

He then thanked Run Saipan president Edward Delac Cruz and Run Saipan for inspiring him to start the streak.

"Also special thanks to Nicole Deleon Guerrero for supporting me all the way," said Pamintuan, who celebrated 365 days of running a mile a

**See PAMINTUAN
on Page 22**

Cruz wins gold, silver in IBJJF San Diego Spring Open

By **LEIGH GASES**
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REPORTER



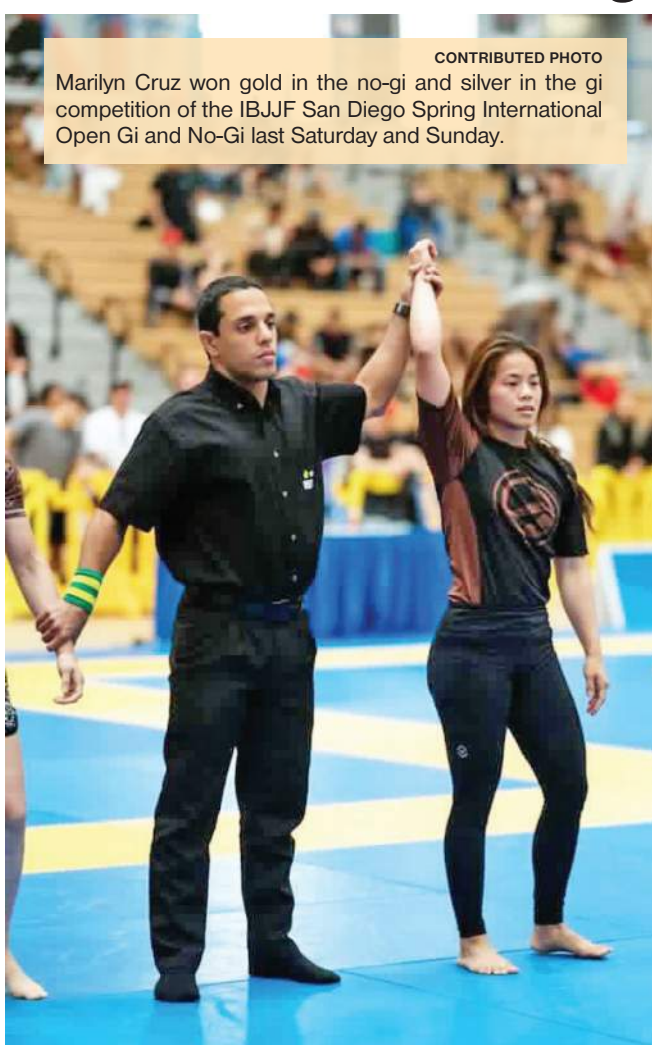
Saipan native Marilyn Cruz continues to

rack up some hardware in the sport of Brazilian Jiu Jitsu as she won gold and silver in the IBJJF San Diego Spring International Open Gi and No-Gi last Saturday and Sunday.

Cruz won gold in the no-gi and no kimono competition and won silver in the gi match.

She won two of her matches in the no-gi competition against one other competitor and won two matches via inside heel hook or leg lock in the no-gi competition.

Cruz first fought in the gi competition last Saturday and lost via referee's decision. "I was trapped in closed guard for the entire match and the referee gave the decision to my opponent. We both didn't make any score so it was by decision. It was a little frustrating that we didn't score on each other but motivated me to come back the next



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Marilyn Cruz won gold in the no-gi and silver in the gi competition of the IBJJF San Diego Spring International Open Gi and No-Gi last Saturday and Sunday.

day and try again."

She did try again and this time with a golden result as she took down both opponents in her two matches.

"I won my first match via inside heel hook to an opponent I often match with, and my final match was with the opponent I lost to in the gi tournament the day before. I got an inside heel hook in the first 10 seconds of the match to win the gold medal. I kept my opponent from closing guard on me again, and it played in my favor. She exposed her legs and I was able to secure the win."

On her performance, she said "I am really happy about my performance in the no-gi tournament, and I'm motivated to train and improve my game so that it doesn't have to come down to [the] ref's decision again. I used this tournament as practice for [the] World Championships coming up next weekend."

Cruz will compete again and plans to bring home podium finishes in the World

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Tokahao, Asahi, Peleliu win close games

By **LEIGH GASES**
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REPORTER



Tokahao, Asahi, and Peleliu were given a run for their money after winning their games by just one run in the 2023 Budweiser Belau Amateur Softball Association League last Sunday at the DanDan Softball Field.

Momma Charo had a failed last-minute redemption plight

when they tried to catch up to Tokahao in the final innings, but fell short and lost 9-10; Asahi was more fortunate as they rallied against Hagu La'mun who had an early lead and won 15-14; and Peleliu came in clutch in the last inning as they won, 13-12 against Aimeliik 1 Time.

Tokahao scored nine runs by the second inning as Momma Charo came up empty for a big lead. Tokahao's Mark Vil-

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LEIGH GASES

In this file photo, Asahi outfielders reach up for a pop fly near the fence during one of their games in the 2023 Budweiser Belau Amateur Softball Association League at the DanDan Softball Field.